

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

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INSIDE



Violent Storms

Violent storms in a 25-mile-long
swath of central New Hampshire
left at least one person dead.

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Obama in Europe

Barack Obama seeks to burnish his
international credentials.

WORLD...Page 11



Private Batman

Batman star Christian Bale asks the
media for privacy.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

Former soldier looking to recruit teacher aides. **PAGE 2**

PSS teachers are still suffering, says ACT rep. **PAGE 3**

DEA seizes marijuana plants

With the aid of local police, Drug Enforcement Administration agents seized several marijuana plants during a three-day operation on Saipan and Tinian.

Saipan Tribune also learned from sources that during the operation on Saipan, a CNMI court employee was taken by DEA agents to their office in

Garapan. A Judiciary van being used by the employee was also placed under investigation.

As of yesterday it was not clear whether the court employee was arrested or was only questioned.

Saipan Tribune contacted the Guam-
See DEA on Page 4



'HURRY UP, PLEASE?'

A child looks at her parents who are waiting in line at the Immigration area upon arrival at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport yesterday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

BAUMANN ON FEDERALIZATION

'The devil is in the details'

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Scores of unanswered questions remain surrounding the prospective impact of the federal government's pending take-over of local immigration rules and local fears over its economic consequences could take a backseat to the Department of Homeland Security's agenda as it crafts the new regulations, Guam attorney Ladd Baumann told the Saipan Chamber of Commerce in a conference Friday.

“DHS is basically focused on enforcement and I suspect the regulations will reflect that focus. The economic interests of the CNMI, it's at the bottom of the list.”

The so-called “federalization” law President Bush signed earlier this year is silent on issues like how it will handle the immigrant family members of American

citizens, the rights of foreign workers to travel within the United States and the mandatory minimum wage employers

See THE DEVIL on Page 4

Senate overrides Fitial veto

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The Senate voted yesterday to override the governor's veto of a bill requiring the Department of Public Lands to consult each respective mayor before taking any action on public lands in his or her municipality.

See SENATE on Page 4



AP

Xavier Moore of Columbus, Ohio shows off his newly issued passport outside of the Kluczynski Federal Building in Chicago in this March 16, 2007 file photo.

State report urges overhauling how passports are issued

By DEVLIN BARRETT
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—The State Department urgently needs to overhaul the way it handles passport applications to avoid a repeat of the massive backlogs

See STATE on Page 4

Local

Former soldier looking to recruit teacher aides

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Fred Camacho was deployed for two years in Iraq. During that time he saw death and destruction. But it didn't prepare him for a classroom full of 9 and 10 year olds.

"It's funny, you go to war,

but find it more intimidating to be in a classroom with fourth graders," he said. "Teaching is probably the hardest profession out there."

Camacho was part of the 2006 inaugural class of the Troops-to-Teachers Program, which places returning and currently-enlisted soldiers in local Public School

System classrooms as they earn their college degree.

Camacho believes in the program so much he is now the Program Assistant.

"The time was rewarding," he said. "[The students] really look up to you, especially if you tell them you are in the military."

When the program started,

Camacho said, there were four soldiers. At one point there were more than 40 participants, but because of funding the program had to be capped.

"It has grown exponentially," he added.

There are about 30 participants so far for the upcoming school year. The number has

decreased in part because of 11 soldiers recently deployed. Troops-to-Teachers are going to be recruiting soldiers in a few weeks, he added.

Soldiers are placed primarily in elementary schools, although a few are placed in the high schools, Camacho said.

"It's spread out through-

out PSS," he said. "We try to target schools with higher populations."

The program originally began in 1994 to assist military personnel in the transition to teaching. Public School System Education Specialist Geri Willis began the CNMI program in April 2006.

KSKK excited to tour Saipan

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
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JUNIOR REPORTER

Twenty-one Japanese students ages 8 to 14 arrived yesterday to take part in the 29th annual Kokusai Seiyounen Kensyuu

Kyokai exchange program.

The delegation was met at the airport by Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela and event organizer/ coordinator Orlika Cabrera Chaudhry, during which they were presented shell leis.

The group then proceeded to the mayor's office where local families that will be hosting the students picked them up. The students will be staying with these families for eight days.



Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela and youth programs coordinator Orlika Maria C. Chaudhry pose with the 21 students who will take part in the 29th annual Kokusai Seiyounen Kensyuu Kyokai exchange program upon arrival at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport yesterday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

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Many of the students shared what they would like to do on island.

"I like to see the ocean," said 10-year-old Yui Iwasaki.

"I would love to see sea animals, especially dolphins," said 9-year-old Eri Miyasita.

Twelve-year-old Jin Kazama said he wants to taste local food.

This is a first visit to the island for all three students.

The children said they were already excited to go sightseeing, said Chaudry, who has been preparing for this event for four years. Chaudry, who volunteers her time to this program, said this will be her last.

KSKK event organizer/ coor-

dinator Tomoki Moriya said he is excited to visit historical Japanese sites, the beautiful beaches, and Banzai Cliff.

The group will start their tour on Monday. They will visit Managaha Island, Pacific Islands Club, Duty Free Galleria, and Suicide and Banzai cliffs.

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PSS teachers are still suffering, says ACT rep

By KRISTI EATON

kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Public School System teachers who are not Praxis-certified are still unfairly suffering, a teacher representative told the PSS Board of Education Friday at its regularly scheduled meeting.

Sam Joyner, a representative for the Association of Commonwealth Teachers and a teacher at Kagman Elementary School, said he believes the board should have taken action by now to help those teachers who got salary cuts in light of not being Praxis-certified.

Joyner first spoke to the BOE in January about the plight many teachers were facing after their salaries fell from around

\$42,000 to around \$28,000.

"We are penalizing teachers. We are punishing teachers. [The message to teachers is] 'You didn't pass the Praxis so we're going to penalize you,'" he told the board.

The BOE required the Praxis I and II test in July 2004 to meet the "Highly Qualified Teachers" requirement set by the No Child Left Behind Act.

Joyner said the non-certified teachers are hardly able to live on their reduced salaries.

He said some teachers are telling him, "How can I pay my credit card? How can I pay for my kids' college? I don't even have the money to pay for the Praxis exam."

Joyner said he first approached the board in Janu-

ary and was under the impression the salaries would be restored.

"Everyone supported me for restoration of the salaries," he said. "I left the meeting with the general feeling everyone was in agreement for restoration. They said they would not let the issue die out. They only needed a funding source."

Board chair Lucia Blanco-Maratita said the board would re-examine the issue.

BOE did not think it would take some teachers several years to pass the test, she added.

"We'll take a look at those teachers still trying to become HQT and how the board can help," she said.

Blanco-Maratita said PSS is

compensating teachers for the test and practice sessions.

"So we're doing out best to

help teachers get to that point," she said.

PSS has a total of 507 public

school teachers. As of September 2007, 141 teachers had not passed the Praxis I exam.

Youth Congress reorganizing

The 10th CNMI Youth Congress has decided to reorganize itself.

The Youth Congress passed "The CNMI Youth Congress Reorganization Act of 2009" in order to ensure better representation by schools with larger enrollment numbers and taking positions from precincts that have shown modest constituents and registered voters, according to the bill.

Previously, Precincts 1

and 3, and the Northern Marianas College had three senators each.

Now, Precincts 1 through 5 on Saipan will each have 1 senator. Tinian will now be known as Precinct 6 and will have one senator. Rota will be Precinct 7 and have one senator.

Because only two of three senator seats were filled at NMC, the college will now only have one senator.

School representation will

also change. Each public and private high school with more than 20 students who wish to participate can have one senator. Each participating public and private high school with more than 300 students (previously 1,000 students) will have one additional senator for every 300 (previously 500) students over 300 (previously 1,000).

The bill has been sent to CNMI Legislature for approval. *(Kristi Eaton)*

Senate confirms 2 appointees

The Senate yesterday confirmed a gubernatorial appointee to the NMI Retirement Fund and another to the Commonwealth Election Commission.

By unanimous vote, the senators approved the appointment of Marian DLG. Tudela to the Retirement Fund board of trustees and the reappointment of Josepha Barcinas to the Election Commission.

Tudela, a member of the Saipan Municipal Council, was named to the Retirement Fund after she resigned from the board of directors of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. She will serve as a Retirement Fund trustee until May 3, 2012.

Tudela had previously sat on the Retirement Fund's board. She served as a trustee of the pension agency for the most part of the Tenorio administra-

tion and the early part of the Babauta administration. Her last term ended in June 2003.

Barcinas will represent Rota to the Election Commission. She will serve a four-year term, which will expire on May 23, 2012.

Barcinas currently works as acting program coordinator at the Office of Aging on Rota.

Another appointee to the Election Commission is awaiting confirmation by the Senate. Vicente C. Reyes was appointed to represent Tinian. If confirmed, Reyes will serve on the commission until July 21, 2011.

Barcinas and Reyes will join chairwoman Frances M. Sablan, and members Miranda V. Manglona, Elizabeth DLG. Aldan, Melvin B. Sablan, Jose L. Itibus, Jesus I. Sablan, and Jose P. Kiyoshi in the commission. *(Agnese E. Donato)*

10TH FESTIVAL OF PACIFIC ARTS

Festival village showcases varied cultural arts, skills

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa—A superb array of arts and crafts and cultural items from around the Pacific is on display at the 10th Festival of Pacific Arts in American Samoa.

Participating countries have set up stalls in the festival village at Samoana High School Field, opposite Utulei Beach, not far from the center of town.

Artists from around the Pacific are displaying and selling beautiful wood carvings, stone sculptures, finely woven pandanus mats, baskets, hats, handbags, jewelry and other accessories.

Samoa has one of the largest stalls displaying a wide variety of cultural items as well as contemporary fashion. Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Fiji and Solomon Islands also have big displays.

Among the PNG items, the popular traditional hand-knotted bags (bilum) and handmade cane baskets stand out. Strings

of shell money, traditionally used as a form of exchange in Solomon Islands, are also selling fast. Tongan handbags and traditional belts are other popular items, as are Fijian tapa and jewelry in traditional designs.

Other activities and art forms on display at the village and other festival venues include traditional tattooing, carving, quilting, painting and drawing, culinary and healing arts, traditional games, and navigation and canoeing. Architects and builders are also demonstrating their skills in constructing traditional designs.

Across from the festival village, traditional and contemporary performances are on show at Utulei Beach against a magnificent backdrop of sea and mountains. Performances are also being held at the Fagatogo Pavilion in the town centre and at the main stadium in the south west of the island. *(SPC)*



The Americans with Disabilities Act turns 18 years old today!

The Americans with Disabilities Act or **ADA** was signed into law on this date in 1990, by President George Bush. The law was created to ensure that people with physical or mental disabilities are not discriminated against when; seeking or maintaining employment (**Title I**); Using places of public

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Answers to this weeks questions:

Mon - B (The universal symbol for accessibility); Tue - E (people with mental disabilities can do any job they are qualified for); Wed - D (people with mental disabilities have equal access to all places that serve the public); Thur - E (people with mental disabilities have equal access to all government services); Fri - C

This ad paid for in full by the Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) program through funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS). The contents are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of SAMHSA/CMHS. Total cost: \$394 Total circulation: 14,400

DOC wants old jail demolished for parking

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Department of Corrections wants the old detention facility in Susupe to be demolished so it can use the lot for parking spaces.

However, the Department of Public Safety also wants to acquire the old facility, DOC Commissioner Lino S. Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune*.

Tenorio said the old building is actually DOC property, but since it is dilapidated, DOC ended up battling for the new detention building in line with the consent decree.

"That building is hazardous for the inmates to be living in, with standards that are really below the expectation and the mandates of the federal government," he said.

The commissioner said it is wise for

them to give up the old building and probably have the Department of Public Works come down and demolish it so DOC can use it as parking space.

In the meantime, Tenorio said, Gov. Benigno Fitial has the authority to hand over the facility to DPS.

"I believed DPS Commissioner Claudio Norita is requesting if they can use that facility for whatever purpose. I don't know, maybe for additional office space or training ground or something," he said.

As for the separate minimum detention facility located behind the Bureau of Motor Vehicle, Tenorio said the building is originally DOC's when the latter was still a division under DPS.

"And back then when it was constructed, it was under DOC. But then there was also a memorandum of understanding that was made by then

DPS Commissioner Charles Ingram Jr. and the courts," he said.

Tenorio recalled that the court was supposed to furnish that minimum detention building with a backup generator for DOC's use in case there is no electric power.

"In return, should DOC move out from that facility, it was supposed to be handed to the courts," Tenorio said.

But as it stands right now, the commissioner said, he is holding back on giving it up to the courts because he still has some plans to use that building.

"We can still redo the MOU again," he said.

Tenorio said the minimum security facility, which was built at least nine years ago, was used to house people charged with misdemeanor cases, civil cases, and DUI (driving while under the influence of alcohol) offenders.

Last July 10, all 131 inmates, including those from the minimum security, were finally moved to the new prison in Susupe.

Camacho is named EMO public information officer

Juan Camacho, supervisor of the Emergency Management Office's Seismic Section, has been named the new public information officer for EMO effective yesterday, July 25, 2008.

EMO acting director Mark S. Pangelinan announced Camacho's appointment in a statement issued to the media yesterday.

AS EMO's PIO, Camacho will be the main spokesperson for the agency and he will be working closely with reporters and press secretary Charles Reyes and other agency and department PIOs "to ensure that accurate and timely information is disseminated to the general public."

"It is critical that our office have a PIO during the times of disaster and emergency. The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the US

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) realize the importance of having a PIO. It will assist in the release of accurate and timely information," said Pangelinan.

Also, during a disaster—whether natural or man-made—a Joint Information Center will be established where federal state, and local PIOs join efforts to disseminate accurate and up-to-date information to the public.

"I have every confidence in Mr. Camacho's abilities. He is seasoned EMO staff and is capable of performing the extra duties I have assigned him," said Pangelinan. (*Saipan Tribune*)

DEA

From Page 1

STATE

From Page 1

last summer that frustrated countless travelers, congressional investigators concluded.

They said the department must develop a "comprehensive, long-term strategy" to meet rising demand for the identity documents. The Associated Press obtained a draft copy Thursday of the report by the Government Accountability Office, the investigative arm of Congress, ahead of its expected release Friday.

Lawmakers asked for an investigation into the backlog that swamped passport offices last spring and summer, the result of a record 18 million applications.

"The 2007 surge in passport demand exposed serious deficiencies in State's passport issuance process. Passport wait times reached record highs, leading to inconvenience and frustration

for many thousands of Americans," the report found.

The department "needs to rethink its entire end-to-end passport issuance process, including each of the entities involved in issuing a passport, and develop a formal strategy for prioritizing and implementing improvements to this process," according to the investigators.

The need for such a strategy is urgent, they said, because the demand for passports is expected to keep soaring in the coming years.

Investigators also recommended creating a system to track individual passport applications as they are handled. That would make it easier for applicants and government workers to track their progress.

Department officials have acknowledged underestimating the high demand for passports last year, but said it was a historic change in behavior by Americans that was not predicted.

The report found a number of crucial missteps or misjudgments that led to the passport mess:

■ A department study used to estimate future passport demand failed to account for a large group of likely travelers.

■ When the backup began in early 2007, officials did not realize how large it was. They were unaware that many applications were piling up at the offices of a private contractor handling the initial paperwork.

■ As the typical four-week wait for a passport turned into 12 weeks or more, officials could not quickly locate specific applications.

The delays led to long lines at government buildings. Lawmakers held hearings after their offices were swamped by requests from constituents desperate to make a long-planned family trip or holiday.

Under intense criticism, the department ordered mandatory overtime, brought some employees

home from foreign posts to help, and sped up hiring.

The GAO found those measures worked well to alleviate the backlog. But they said the department took a "day-to-day" approach to the problem rather than overhauling and re-examining the entire process.

By last October, the wait times had come back down to normal levels, and this summer's batch of applications has gone smoothly. The department's Web site says people can expect a passport application to be processed in about four weeks.

Some of the demand for new passports resulted from new travel rules that required U.S. citizens to have a passport when returning from trips within the Western Hemisphere, including Canada and Mexico.

Lawmakers fear another round of travel headaches next year, when passports will be required of every American citizen driving back across the northern or southern U.S. border.

based DEA resident agent-in-charge, Antonio Marquez, yesterday for details about the operation in the CNMI, but he was not available. Marquez didn't return a message from *Saipan Tribune* seeking comment.

A KSPN 2 report last night identified the court employee as building superintendent Joe Guzman but there was no immediate police confirmation on this.

A check with the courts yesterday afternoon indicated that Guzman did not report for work the past two days. Court employees refused to comment on his whereabouts.

Sources said DEA agents used a helicopter to search for marijuana plants on Saipan on Tuesday and Wednesday. Local officers served as back up whenever the officers on the helicopter would spot potential marijuana plantations.

On Thursday, DEA agents, using the same helicopter, moved to Tinian where they also seized many marijuana plants, sources said.

THE DEVIL

From Page 1

will have to pay visa holders, Baumann said before a packed meeting at the Pacific Islands Club. And in spite of recent talks on the rules local officials held with DHS, he added, the agency likely has its own ideas of how to answer those questions.

"The devil is in the details," Baumann said. "It's not so much what the law says as what the regulations say."

Post-911 security concerns, Baumann noted, are a much higher priority for DHS than the economic fallout of federalization, a factor that heightens the uncertainty the local business community is facing.

"DHS is basically focused on enforcement and I suspect the regulations will reflect that focus," said Baumann. "The economic interests of the CNMI—if that is on their list of priorities—it's at the bottom of the list. They're more interested in the enforcement side than the economic side"

Chief among the questions local business owners want answered is how the new rules will deal with minimum wage requirements. Federal minimum wage standards for foreign workers would significantly increase their pay, Baumann noted, a prospect that drew gasps from some in the crowd.

In a July 22 letter to DHS officials, Baumann highlighted this concern, saying the issue is closely tied to rules on H visas, the primary visa for foreign workers. A major wage disparity between Guam and the CNMI could drive many visa holders to leave the Commonwealth in search of better pay, he noted.

"If the H visa is portable between the CNMI and Guam, then self-interest will mean that many workers having been recruited to work in the CNMI will transfer to Guam as soon as possible," Baumann writes. "Since Guam will have a labor shortage for the next few years, the competition for labor will in effect

make the H visa of little use in the CNMI to hire and retain workers."

Chamber president James Arenovski said the issues Baumann detailed in the workshop underscore the concerns local business leaders have.

"It reinforces what we've known all along, which is that there's lots of uncertainty," Arenovski said. "We really need to be waiting until November to see what's going to be happening. The chamber is working on getting some questions out to DHS later and right now that's all we can do."

SENATE

From Page 1

All of the six present members voted in support of passing the bill over the governor's disapproval. Two-thirds of the Senate was required for passage. Senators Maria T. Pangelinan, Jude Hofschneider, and Paterno Hocog were absent.

The bill requires concurrence by two-third of the House of Representatives to become law.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial had spiked

the legislation, saying it "impedes in the progress and development of the DPL and it violates the Constitution."

But the senators insisted on the importance of consulting the mayors on public lands issues.

Tinian Sen. Joseph Mendiola said DPL should be required to get local perspective before leasing out public lands, especially those pieces of property that measure less than five hectares. By law, DPL is required to obtain legislative approval before leasing out any public property with an area of at least five hectares.

"The mayor should be consulted as to what is good for his island," said Mendiola. "If DPL decides to allow a red-light district on four hectares of public lands, say, on Tinian, and the people get upset, they won't go to DPL to complain; they will bring their complaint to the Tinian leadership."

Rota Sen. Paul Manglona echoed Mendiola's statement. He said that some DPL projects on Rota failed because they were undertaken without input from the municipality. One example, he said, is a \$1-million

homestead project that has gone to waste because of poor planning and lack of coordination with the municipal government.

In his veto message to Senate President Pete P. Reyes and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, the governor said that requiring the DPL secretary to adhere to the mayors' position would only add another layer of bureaucracy in managing public lands.

He noted that the law, which created DPL, already provides a mechanism to ensure DPL complies with its fiduciary duties by providing for an advisory

board that includes members from each municipality.

Although DPL's enabling statute provides for an advisory board, the administration has not made any appointments to the board.

Fitial further argued that the measure violates the Constitution, which designates the management of public lands to the Executive Branch. "The measure would change that constitutional mandate as it will allow the mayors to share management authority, which is in direct violation of the Constitution," he said.

Lawmakers OK \$291K for PSS projects

A bill appropriating nearly \$300,000 to public school projects is now headed to the governor.

The Senate voted unanimously yesterday to pass legislation that would allow the Public

School System to use \$291,200 in proceeds from its general obligation bond for capital improvement projects at the schools.

The bill will become law once approved by the governor.

In addition to providing money for the school construction projects, the measure will allow PSS to use any other funds it may realize at the closure of its indenture trust agreement at the

end of the fiscal year.

PSS is in the process of implementing a seven-year capital improvement plan, which includes new classrooms, facilities, and repair. Encompassing

PSS' high-priority school facility needs from school year 2004-05 to school year 2011-12, the CIP plan was drafted in anticipation of continued increase in student population.

In May 2008, Education Commissioner David M. Borja reported that there is \$300,000 from the PSS bond with the Bank of New York Trust Company now available for appropriation.

Another \$1.37 million will be realized from the surplus account on Oct. 1, 2008, but the money is allocated for the final payment to the bondholders. Some \$2.1 million is also remaining in the projects account, but these funds are already appropriated to pay for the ongoing projects on Tinian, Rota, and Saipan.

About \$230,000 is still in the rebates accounts, and it will be available 30 days after the final payment to the bondholders. (Agnes E. Donato)

Torres: Lawsuit vs NMC is about public records, not Angello's case

Rep. Stanley T. Torres has urged Northern Marianas College president Carmen Fernandez and former acting NMI Board of Regents chair Eloise Furey to leave Jack Angello out of his lawsuit against them.

Torres, through lawyer Antonette R. Villagomez, asked Fernandez and Furey to battle Angello in his own case against NMC.



Torres

The defendants' continued insistence on including references to Angello in this case is unnecessary and tiresome, said the lawmaker in his opposition to Fernandez's and Furey's motion for reconsideration.

"This is not a case involving Jack Angello and NMC," Torres insisted.

Villagomez said Angello may have aided Torres with the case when the lawmaker appeared in court without a lawyer but Torres has not employed Angello since the latter's retirement in 2007 and denied Angello's further involvement in any aspect of the case.

Villagomez said Torres is pursuing the case because he believes the college violated the Open Government Act when it failed to comply with his request to inspect public records at NMC.

Torres reiterated his reasons for requesting the documents in his June 12, 2007, OGA request to NMC.

"As a member of the House of

Representatives, plaintiff received several reports and complaints of improper and questionable financial activities at NMC," Villagomez said.

Pursuant to such reports, Villagomez said, Torres was investigating the matter by requesting the information from NMC.

Investigating reports of improper financial activities at NMC is a "reasonable" and "legitimate" justification for Torres' request of public records from the college, she said.

Villagomez said there is no clear error that justifies reconsideration because the court may grant Torres' motion for summary judgment.

Villagomez said the court correctly determined that there is no dispute regarding the material facts of the case that "the sticking point is who should bear the costs of redacting any information" in this case.

It appears, Villagomez said, the defendants do not want to comply with Torres' request for information and are making it extremely difficult for the lawmaker to obtain the information, which, pursuant to the OGA, is "public record."

Torres sued Fernandez, Furey, former assistant attorney General Linda Waugh and NMI private counsel F. Matthew Smith for allegedly not producing the

records he requested.

In a recent decision, Superior Court Associate Judge David Wiseman ordered Fernandez and Furey to produce all public records requested by the lawmaker.

In the same ruling, Wiseman denied a motion to dismiss the allegations against Fernandez and Furey.

Wiseman, however, granted a motion to dismiss the allegations

against Waugh and Smith.

The judge noted that, according to the OGA, all public records shall be available for inspection, "unless inspection of such records is in violation of any Commonwealth or federal law."

Fernandez and Furey asked Wiseman to reconsider his decision.

Hernandez and Furey, through counsel F. Matthew

Smith, asserted that Wiseman's granting of summary judgment in favor of Torres contains several errors that warrant reconsideration and reversal.

"NMC also hopes the court will recognize the substantial and manifest injustice that has and will result if the current decision is allowed to stand," said Smith in the motion for reconsideration. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE JULY 26, 2008

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY THRU ITS ACTING CHAIRMAN HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD A REGULAR MEETING ON TUESDAY, JULY 29, 2008 AT 10:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, WAKIN'S BUILDING, CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 1. Roll Call
 2. Adoption of Agenda
 3. Adoption of Minutes – July 15, 2008
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- III. REPORTS
- IV. DIVISION/COMMITTEES
 1. Financial Report – DCD
 2. Development Corporation Division (CDC)
 - a. Status of Pending Items
 3. DBD/Public Finance Committee
 - a. Status of the DBD Funds
 - b. CPA Loan
 4. Administrative Matters/Personnel & Budget Committee
 - a. Administration's Report
 5. QC Program/Economic Development Activities Committee
 - a. Laulau Development, Inc. d.b.a. Laolao Bay Golf Resort
 - b. Compliance Issues
- V. OLD BUSINESS
- VI. NEW BUSINESS
 1. Department of Commerce – Business Summit/Forum
 2. Public Law 16-2
- VII. OTHER MATTERS
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)

/s/ PEDRO I. ITIBUS
Acting Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

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EDITORIAL

Get the picture?

This week, an appeals court in Philadelphia rejected two attempts by the federal government to shield the public from indecency online and in TV broadcasts. The rulings—both of which upheld decisions made by lower courts—add to a mounting pile of judicial rebukes of lawmakers and regulators who consider the First Amendment little more than a suggestion. You'd think that policymakers would have learned by now that the government runs afoul of the Constitution whenever it substitutes its judgment about offensive content for a parent's choices. Unfortunately, you'd be wrong.

On Monday, the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the Federal Communications Commission acted arbitrarily when it fined CBS \$550,000 for airing a half-second shot of Janet Jackson's right breast loosed from its studded leather mooring. This infamous "wardrobe malfunction" at the 2004 Super Bowl was the kind of fleeting display the FCC had tolerated for nearly three decades, the three-judge panel ruled, and the commission must not change that policy without notice or explanation.

The next day, a different 3rd Circuit panel upheld a permanent injunction against the Child Online Protection Act, the law Congress enacted after the courts threw out parts of the 1996 Communications Decency Act. Both measures aimed to protect minors from material online that's not suitable for them. Yet both violated the First Amendment, in the courts' view, because they blocked too much material and were less effective than alternative approaches, such as filtering programs.

The underlying message here is the same one the courts have been sending to Congress and the FCC for more than a decade. The tools Washington uses to protect children from offensive material are too crude for the job. By contrast, the tools available to parents are improving every year. Television sets, cable and satellite TV receivers, disc players, game consoles and computers can all be programmed to filter out violent, profane or suggestive content.

Nevertheless, the state of New York just enacted a video game law that replaces voluntary ratings and parental controls with potentially unconstitutional state mandates. And the FCC wants to require licensees on a new set of airwaves to block material that would harm 5-year-olds, as if anyone in government could define what that might be. Protecting kids is a worthwhile goal for policymakers, but there's no point in adopting rules the courts are sure to reject.

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times



Better living through \$8 gas

I love \$4 gas. It makes me appreciate freedom. I watch as the dollars spin and think, "You, Triceratops, did not get squished by an asteroid in vain. You got squished for a \$60 drive to Vegas."

So I didn't go to Wednesday's MoveOn.org protests against high gas prices, which included one at the most expensive gas station in the Los Angeles area, the Union 76 in Beverly Hills. MoveOn's news release explained: "We want to make sure the world knows that Beverly Hills residents are fed up with gas prices and want a president in the White House who will bring the cost of gas down." MoveOn always understands the problems plaguing Americans, such as the cost of gas in Beverly Hills. If the group succeeds on this issue, I hope it will next tackle the onerous two-year contract on the new iPhone and how late heirloom tomatoes arrived this year.

If MoveOn and Barack Obama really were going to confront America bravely with hard, necessary truths, they would tell us how great \$4 gas has been for us. With public transit use nationally at a 50-year high, traffic dropped 2.1 percent in the first four months of this year across the country. That mileage reduction—along with people driving smaller cars, and more slowly, to save gas—could mean that 12,000 fewer people will die in traffic accidents this year, according to a study by professors Michael Morrissey at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and David C. Grabowski at Harvard Medical School. Air pollution has been reduced enough, according to economics professor J. Paul Leigh at the University of California, Davis, to prevent 2,200 respiratory-related deaths over the past year. Less eating out and more walking and biking could mean a 10 percent reduction in obesity, according to Charles Courtemanche, an assistant economics professor at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. And, apparently, higher gas prices also keep econ professors employed.

Yes, it's easy for me to revel in \$4 gas because I'm rich. And because my wife and I own a Mini Cooper and a Prius. And because I work at home. And because some of the mutual funds I own contain a fair amount of Exxon Mobil stock. And because I'm brave enough to ignore the manufacturer's suggestion to use high-octane gas.

Cheap gas is unfair. Driving creates huge social costs in the form of traffic, health-damaging pollution and global warming that aren't suffered solely by the person buying the gasoline. Governments usually set up idiotic systems to offset such social costs (emissions

By JOEL STEIN

Special to the Los Angeles Times

Stein is a columnist for the Times. E-mail him at jstein@latimescolumnists.com.

trading, ethanol subsidies, taco truck regulations) instead of forcing individuals to pay for their own mess by adding a tax to remedy the imbalance. That kind of tax—the most fair kind, really—is called a Pigovian tax, and its use is why gas costs \$8 to \$10 a gallon in Europe, where they have fewer road deaths even though they drive like complete idiots.

If the U.S. were to jack up gas taxes slowly until we're in the \$8 range, life would be better. We not only would be safer and have reduced greenhouse-gas emissions, but we probably would be happier too. Studies show that the only thing that consistently increases

Cheap gas is unfair. Driving creates huge social costs in the form of traffic, health-damaging pollution and global warming that aren't suffered solely by the person buying the gasoline.

personal happiness is social interaction; high gas prices have led to real estate prices falling faster in suburbs and exurbs than in cities, so we soon might have more content downtown-dwellers. Those same studies show that the thing that makes people least happy is commuting, and telecommuting is way up this year. We could use the tax revenue to fund public transportation. And we would go back to the days when driving a car was

a way to show people what a rich jerk you were. In other words, we no longer would need SUVs for that.

Sure, \$8 gas is unfair to poor people, but so is all of capitalism. Rich people get more of the globe's resources. No one has a right to cheap gas any more than he has a right to other things needed for a full and productive life, like an iPhone or a weekly newspaper column where you can tick people off.

We spent 50 years using government money to build the free-ways that led to the driving-centric, mall-rat lifestyle I grew up with, so it surely will take decades more to restructure our society into something better. And as bummed as I am to pay a lot for gas, it's a fair price for improving society. I also think government should look into some kind of heavy taxation on Facebook usage.

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Black. Female. Accomplished. Attacked.

By SOPHIA A. NELSON
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

There she is—no, not Miss America, but the Angela-Davis-Afro-wearing, machine-gun-toting, angry, unpatriotic Michelle Obama, greeting her husband with a fist bump instead of a kiss on the cheek.

It was supposed to be satire, but the caricature of Barack Obama and his wife that appeared on the cover of the New Yorker last week rightly caused a major flap. And among black professional women like me and many of my sisters in the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, who happened to be gathered last week in Washington for our 100th anniversary celebration, the mischaracterization of Michelle hit the rawest of nerves.

Welcome to our world. We’ve watched with a mixture of pride and trepidation as the wife of the first serious African-American presidential contender has weathered recent campaign travails—being called unpatriotic for a single offhand remark, dubbed a black radical because of something she wrote more than 20 years ago and plastered with the crowning stereotype: “angry black woman.” And then being forced to undergo a politically mandated “makeover” to soften her image and make her more palatable to mainstream America.

Sad to say, but what Obama has undergone, though it’s on a national stage and on a much more prominent scale, is nothing new to professional African-American women. We endure this type of labeling all the time. We’re endlessly familiar with the problem Michelle Obama is confronting—being looked at, as black women, through a different lens from our white counterparts, who are portrayed as kinder, gentler souls who somehow deserve to be loved and valued more than we do. So many of us are hoping that Michelle—as an elegant and elusive combination of successful career woman, supportive wife and loving mother—can change that.

“Ain’t I a woman?” Sojourner Truth famously asked 157 years ago. Her ringing question, demanding why black women weren’t accorded the same privileges as their white counterparts, still sums up the African-American woman’s dilemma today: How are we viewed as women, and where do we fit into American life?

“Thanks to the hip-hop industry,” one prominent black female journalist recently said to me, all black women are “deemed ‘sexually promiscuous video vixens’ not worthy of consideration. If other black women speak up, we’re considered angry black women who complain. This society can’t even see a woman like Michelle Obama. All it sees is a black woman and attaches stereotypes.”

Black women have been mischaracterized and stereotyped since the days of slavery and minstrel shows. In more recent times, they’ve been portrayed onscreen and in popular culture as either sexually available bed wenches in such shows as the 2000

docudrama “Sally Hemings: An American Scandal,” ignorant and foolish servants such as Prissy from “Gone With the Wind” or ever-smiling housekeepers, workhorses who never complain and never tire, like the popular figure of Aunt Jemima.

Even in the 21st century, black women are still bombarded with media and Internet images that portray us as loud, aggressive, violent and often grossly obese and unattractive. Think of the movies “Norbit” or “Big Momma’s House,” or of the only two black female characters in “Enchanted,” an overweight, aggressive traffic cop and an angry divorcee amid all the white princesses.

On the other hand, when was the last time you saw a smart, accomplished black professional woman portrayed on mainstream television or in the movies? If Claire Huxtable on “The Cosby Show” comes to mind, remember that she left the scene 16 years ago.

The reality is that in just a generation, many black women—who were mostly domestics, schoolteachers or nurses in the post-slavery Jim Crow era—have become astronauts, corporate executives, doctors, lawyers, engineers and PhDs. You name it, and black women have achieved it. The most popular woman on daytime television is Oprah Winfrey. Condoleezza Rice is secretary of state.

And yet my generation of African-American women—we’re called, in fact, the Claire Huxtable generation—hasn’t managed to become successfully integrated into American popular culture. We’re still looking for respect in the workplace, where, more than anything else, black women feel invisible. It’s a term that comes up again and again. “In my profession, white men mentor young whites on how to succeed,” a financial executive told me, but “they’re either indifferent to or dogmatically document the mistakes black women make. Their indifference is the worst, because it means we’re invisible.”

As someone who recently left a large law firm to work in the corporate sector, I have to agree. I liked my firm, but I always felt that I had to sink or swim on my own. I didn’t get the kind of mentoring that I saw white colleagues, male and female, getting all around me. The firm was actually one of the better ones when it came to diversity, and yet of 600 partners, only five were black women.

A 2007 American Bar Association report titled “Visible Invisibility” describes how black women in the legal profession face the “double burden” of being both black and female, meaning that they enjoy none of the advantages that black men gain from being male, or that white women gain from being white.

Invisibility isn’t the only problem. I run an organization dedicated to supporting African-American professional women and often run empowerment workshops at various conferences. At a recent such workshop, I asked the participants to list some words that would describe how they believe they’re viewed in the workplace and the culture at large. These are the kinds of

words that came back: “loud,” “angry,” “intimidating,” “mean,” “opinionated,” “aggressive,” “hard.” All painful words. Yet asked to describe themselves, the same women offered gentler terms: “strong,” “loving,” “dependable,” “compassionate.”

Where does the disconnect come from? Possibly from the way black women have been forced into roles of strength for decades. “Black women are the original multitaskers of necessity,” says one nonprofit executive. “We’ve perfected it because we’ve been doing it for so long. But people don’t appreciate the skill it requires, and they don’t recognize the toll it takes on us as human beings.”

For all our success in the professional world, we have paid a significant price in our private and emotional lives. A life of preordained singleness (by chance, not by choice) is fast becoming the plight of alarming numbers of professional black women in America. The fact is that the more money and education a black woman has, the less likely she is to marry and have a family.

Consider these stunning statistics: As of 2007, according to The New York Times, 70 percent of professional black women were unmarried. Black women are five times more likely than white women to be single at age 40. In 2003, Newsweek reported that there are more black women than black men (24 percent to 17 percent) in the professional-managerial class. According to Department of Education statistics cited by the Journal of Blacks in Higher Education, black women earn 67 percent of all bachelor’s degrees awarded to blacks, as well as 71 percent of all master’s degrees and 65 percent of all doctoral degrees.

With all the challenges facing professional black women today, we hope that Michelle Obama will defy the negative stereotypes about us. And that, now that a strong professional black woman is center stage, she’ll bring to light what we already know: that an accomplished black woman can be a loyal and supportive wife and a good mother and still fulfill her own dreams. The fact that her husband clearly adores Michelle is both refreshing and reassuring to many of us who long to find a good man who will love and appreciate us.

Recently, a friend who’s a married professional mother of three girls wrote to me: “I think one of the most interesting things about Michelle Obama is that what she and her husband are doing is pretty revolutionary these days—and I don’t mean running for president. For a black man and woman in the U.S. to be happily married, with children, and working as partners to build a life—let alone a life of service to others—all while rearing their children together is downright (begin ital) revolutionary.” (end ital)

It’s how so many black professional women feel. And our hope is that if Michelle Obama becomes first lady, the revolution will come to us at last

Sophia A. Nelson is a corporate attorney and president of iask, Inc., an organization for African-American professional women. snelson@iaskinc.org

Autism: Where’s the support?

By ANN BAUER
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

There is a family down the street whom I envy. I’ve never met them. They live in a two-story white house—a mother, a father and their grown son. Outside is a trimmed yard with rosebushes and a wooden arbor where the men work on weekends.

The dad, who looks to be near 60, pushes a wheelbarrow or carries a set of shears. The son could be 20—the age of my oldest child—or 40. He is a short, egg-shaped man. He walks behind his father, carrying large shovels and bags of dirt and the like. He works tirelessly, from what I can see, and talks most of the time.

On weekdays, when I am taking my youngest child to school, I sometimes see him holding a cloth lunch bag and boarding a small bus. I imagine that at work he is as cheerful and productive as he appears to be with his father on Sunday afternoons.

The fact that this man has Down syndrome is clear. He has the telltale almond-shaped eyes and short limbs. I know that he could suffer from any number of medical conditions, from heart defects to epilepsy, and that his cognitive functioning is probably impaired.

Still, I envy his parents. My grown son has autism. And while I wouldn’t trade him—the person to whom I gave birth—for any other, I wish that his disability were as recognizable as Down syndrome and that we, his parents, were more effective at helping him achieve a satisfying

life. Right now, we’re flummoxed by the issues that arise as a child with autism veers into adulthood: higher education, employment, independent living, romance. In all these areas, family members of those with Down syndrome have figured out a cohesive, workable system of support.

They have some advantages that we don’t. First, Down syndrome is quantifiable: There is a definitive diagnosis and a general similarity of experience. It doesn’t have the random diversity of autism, which spans a range from nonverbal to simply rigid and from low IQ to extremely high. Second, those parents have mobilized. Parents of children and adults with Down syndrome routinely trade information and assist one another in accessing care.

Third—and most important—they have carved out a place in society for their children. It’s a hackneyed myth that people with Down syndrome are uniformly happy, but it is true that they have the capacity for joy and that their community has ensured they have a breadth of options—career, marriage, dignity.

This is what we who love people with autism must do. My son is flailing in a system that doesn’t know how to deal with him. I admit I’m of little help. He doesn’t look different from other 20 year olds, and he happens to be of normal intelligence. But socially, he is as lost as he was at age 4, when he withdrew, quit speaking and stared for hours at his own hand. Over the past year, he’s been placed in a series of group homes for people with mental retardation or psychosis. None has been right.

His senses are overly acute, which means he experiences the world largely as pain. Noises, colors, smells—they’re all too vivid.

He is prone to sleeping his days away rather than working in the yard. He likes dark rooms and movies and has the urge to date but cannot work up the nerve to speak to girls, much less ask one out.

At this time there are no resources, the county social worker tells me. My son doesn’t fit in any of the current residences, jobs programs or schools. There are not enough “waivers” available to provide appropriate housing or treatment for the deluge of young people like him. Worse, the community of parents dealing with autism has splintered over philosophical issues, such as causal factors and wholesale acceptance vs. finding a cure.

Twenty years from now, I hope things will be different—that we’ll have learned to cooperate.

Today, unfortunately, more than 90 percent of fetuses tested and found to have Down syndrome are aborted. The power of their parent group is shrinking, as is the world’s mosaic of human form.

I’d like to knock on my neighbors’ door and ask them how it’s done. Tell me the secret to sharing your home with a grown child, I would say, while allowing him the space to become an adult with his own life. Show me how to create unity among families. I may do this yet.






Someone has to talk to those wise parents before they die out, or I fear our children with autism will continue to wander through a world where they never fit.

Ann Bauer, a writer in Minnesota, is the author of the novel A Wild Ride Up the Cupboards.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Southeast winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds becoming east around 10 mph in the afternoon.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲88 ▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼77
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲87 ▼71
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲88 ▼78
Majuro	Cloudy	▲85 ▼77

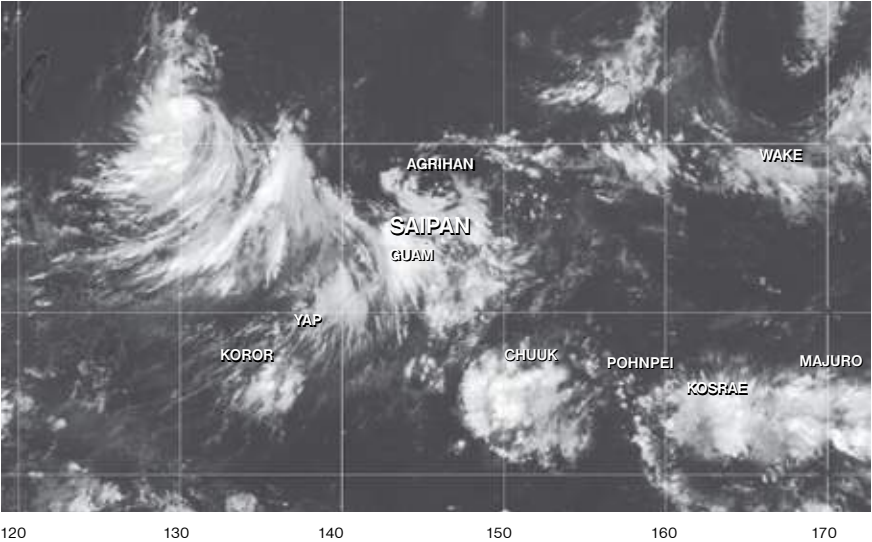
Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲55 ▼50
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲90 ▼74
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲91 ▼80
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲85 ▼77
London	Showers	▲73 ▼59
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲87 ▼64
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼77
Melbourne	Thundershowers	▲58 ▼45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89 ▼76
New York	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼69
Osaka	Cloudy	▲90 ▼78
Paris	Showers	▲77 ▼60
Pusan	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼76
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲88 ▼67
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲81 ▼51
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲70 ▼54
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼74
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼78
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼71

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
12:30AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
7:50AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
2:20PM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
7:12PM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, JULY 25, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical storm 09W near 21N132E continues to intensify as it moves westward towards Taiwan. Scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms associated with this new tropical storm are occurring west of 133E between 16N and 24N east of this area. A tail of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms can be seen within the low-level southerly flow from TS09W eastward to an upper-level low located within the Marianas at 18N145E. This area can best be described with an adjoining box from 24N133E to 17N147E to 10N147E and then back to 16N133E. This includes the area between Guam and Saipan. For further information on ts 09W please see JTWC warning WTPN31 PGTW or NWS public advisory WTPQ31 PGUM east of the Marianas. The upper-level trough (tutt) is helping to generate pockets of scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between 18N and 21N from 150E to 175E including in the vicinity of Wake Island south of 10N. Two weak low pressure troughs near Palau and Chuuk are aiding areas of scattered showers and isolated convection between 4N and 7N from 133E to 137E and between 1N and 7N from 147E to 154E near Kosrae and in the Marshalls. Trade-wind convergence is helping to create an area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from 2N and 6N between 158E and the dateline.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:58AM	6:49 PM
Sunday	5:58AM	6:49 PM
Monday	5:58AM	6:48 PM
Tuesday	5:59AM	6:48 PM
Wednesday	5:59AM	6:48 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:36AM
Sunday	12:17AM 1:38PM
Monday	1:10AM 2:43PM
Tuesday	2:10AM 3:49PM
Wednesday	3:15AM 4:52PM

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 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
■ CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

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■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
Saipan-Rota CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	Rota-Saipan CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
Saipan-Guam CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita NW 099 5:00am 7:40am Daily NW 078 8:55am 2:00pm Daily NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily	Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:15am 2:55pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:30am+1 Daily NW 100 8:45pm 1:25am+1 Daily
Saipan-Osaka NW 083 4:20pm 7:05pm Daily	Osaka-Saipan NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:55am 11:35am Daily	Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:30am+1 Daily
Saipan-Seoul OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	Seoul-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
Guam-Manila CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	Manila-Guam CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:20pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6	Guanzhou-Saipan CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
Guam-Hongkong CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5	Hongkong-Guam CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
Guam-Rota CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	Rota-Guam CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Schedule of Religious Services													
CATHOLIC													
Mt. Carmel Cathedral Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm													
Korean Center Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm													
Kristo Rai Parish Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am Monday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm Saturday: 6am and 6pm													
Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish Wednesday Mass: 6pm First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm Saturday Mass: 6pm Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am													
Saint Jude Parish Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm													
San Antonio Parish Sunday: 6am and 8am Tuesday and Friday: 6pm													
San Francisco de Borja-Rota Sunday: 6am and 8am Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6pm													
San Isidro-Rota Sunday: 5am and 10am Monday-Wednesday: 7pm Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm													
San Jose (Oleai) Parish Sunday: 6am and 7:30am Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm													
San Roque Parish Sunday: 9am Wednesday: 6pm Saturday: 10:30am													
San Vicente Parish Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6pm													
Santa Remedios Sunday: 7:30am Tuesday: 6pm Saturday: 10am-Baptism													
Santa Soledad Sunday: 7:30am													
PROTESTANT													
Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm													
Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm													
Chinese Christian Church of Saipan Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm													
Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan Worship/Study Opportunities Adult Sunday School: 9am Youth Sunday School: 9am English Worship Service Sunday: 10am Sunday Service: 5:30pm Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm; Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm Mid-week Service: 7:30pm Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm													
Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau, Call 235-0545 for directions													
Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan Worship Service: 9am GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am Sunday: 7am Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm													
Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English) Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog) Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)													
Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville Sunday Services 9:00 AM Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158 Pastor JJ Matsumoto													
Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation) Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)													
9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church) Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)													
Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan English Service: 9-11am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday													
Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan Sunday School: 8:20am Sunday Adult: 10am Sunday Adult: 11:30am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm													
Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)													
Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm													
Missions Connection Ministry Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Youth Impact Friday: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm													
Northern Marianas Christian Church Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided) Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620													
Saipan Bible Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30-10am Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm													
Saipan Christian Church Sunday: 7:30am-10am Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting) Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)													
Saipan Church of Christ Sunday Bible Class: 9am Sunday Worship: 10am Sunday Worship English: 6pm Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm													
Saipan Community Church (Sunday Services) Palau Service: 7:30am-9am English Service: 10am-11:30am Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm													
Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan (Saturday Church Services) Sabbath School Program: 9-10am Lesson Study: 10-10:40am Divine Service: 11-12pm Visitation: 3-4pm Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm Sundown Worship: 6-7pm													
First Baptist Church (Formerly Saipan Baptist Church) Aletna St., San Antonio Sunday <table><tr><td></td><td>9am</td><td>Sunday school</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>10am</td><td>Regular worship</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>6pm</td><td>worship</td></tr></table> Wednesday <table><tr><td>7pm</td><td>worship</td></tr></table> Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. McLure at 234-1939/235-7779.				9am	Sunday school		10am	Regular worship		6pm	worship	7pm	worship
	9am	Sunday school											
	10am	Regular worship											
	6pm	worship											
7pm	worship												
Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center Phone 234-0209 New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches. Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi Service Times Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelism													
Upper Room International Ministries Sunday 5:30 a.m-6:30 a.m Morning prayer <table><tr><td>7am-9am</td><td>English service</td></tr><tr><td>7am-9am</td><td>Sunday school</td></tr><tr><td>10am-12noon</td><td>English service,</td></tr></table> Koblerville Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church Gualo Rai, Saipan			7am-9am	English service	7am-9am	Sunday school	10am-12noon	English service,					
7am-9am	English service												
7am-9am	Sunday school												
10am-12noon	English service,												
Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30am Sunday AM Worship: 10:30am Sunday PM Worship: 7:00am Wed Worship: 7:30pm Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S													

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 26, 1999

Money for SNILD pet projects disapproved
Acting Gov. Jesus R. Sablan has vetoed a local measure appropriating some \$806,000 for the Saipan Mayor’s office and other municipal concerns, quashing attempt by lawmakers to set aside revenues from poker license fees for their pet projects. Although it was expected, the veto followed last week’s decision by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation not to recall House Local Bill 11-21 from the Office of the Governor despite uncertainties on funding.

Education summit opens tonight
Delegates to the 16th Annual Pacific Educational Conference will gather at Diamond Hotel tonight for the summit’s official opening ceremony which starts at 6:30 PM. About 500 educators from the mainland and Pacific island states and entities are expected to attend the region’s biggest educational summit, which will start formal discussions at the Marianas High School tomorrow.

Inos seeks creation of new team to evaluate teacher performance
Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos said the Public School System is creating a new team that would evaluate teachers’ performances based on what are expected of them. Inos said the creation of this team is part of the education agency’s efforts to improve the quality of teaching in public schools. The evaluation process would be based on the teaching performance criteria and personal conduct criteria drafted by PSS and adopted by the Board of Education in 1997.

July 26, 2000

Lin’s garment factory raided
Nine people were arrested and detained by agents of the Department of Labor and Immigration during a surprise inspection of the UIC garment factory in San Antonio at dawn yesterday, according to officials. Assistant Attorney General Andrew Clayton, legal counsel for the department, said the inspection was part of the DOLI’s compliance monitoring operations.

Bitter fight over fees strand tourists at Outer Cove
Bus loads of Japanese tourists scheduled to take a day trip to Managaha island were turned away yesterday morning from taking their boat ride at the Outer Cove Marina by the management of Marine Revitalization Corp. after Tasi Tours refused to pay higher passenger departure fee. The Japanese tourists who had to endure several hours of delay were finally able to leave for Managaha using the convenience dock. The National Parks Service allowed Tasi Tours only to use the convenience dock for a day.

Healthy baby for a hemodialysis patient at CHC
Twenty-eight-year-old Maria Borja made history when she gave birth to her daughter Corina Olympia Borja two-and-a-half weeks ago at the Commonwealth Health Center. Women who are undergoing hemodialysis and are still in their child bearing age like Ms. Borja have very slim chance of having a baby. In fact, the statistical probability is 1 out of 200. But miracles do happen.

July 26, 2001

Higher PSS budget dead
House Legislative Initiative 12-001 is dead. The measure, which seeks to amend the Commonwealth Constitution to increase the Public School System’s mandatory funding by 10 percent, failed to garner the required number of votes to pass through the Senate during yesterday’s special session. The initiative needed three-fourths of the vote-at least seven affirmative votes-to pass through the upper chamber. However, it only managed to garner six affirmative votes, with three voting no.

Less than 2 years left for dump
The Puerto Rico dumpsite has had enough. A study conducted by a California-based consultancy firm disclosed that it may only take over a year of continuous dumping of garbage before the Puerto Rico dumpsite reaches the maximum level. The dumpsite’s remaining capacity is just 267,684 cubic yards, already unfit to accommodate Saipan’s estimated 114,816,000 pounds (57,408 tons) of thrash yearly longer than two years.

Business

Slump persists; home sales drop across US

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sales of existing homes tumbled more sharply than expected in June, pushing activity down to the lowest level in more than a decade. With an already huge glut of homes on the market, median prices fell compared to a year ago and analysts predicted prices would keep falling until next spring as tighter credit, a slipping job market and rising foreclosures scare potential buyers away. The National Association of Realtors reported Thursday that sales dropped by 2.6 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.86 million units, the slowest sales pace since the first quarter of 1998. The decline was more than double the 1 percent drop that economists had been expecting and left sales 15.5 percent below where they were a year ago. The downward slide in sales depressed prices, too. The median price for a home sold in June dropped to \$215,100, down by 6.1 percent from a year ago. That was the fifth largest year-over-year price drop on record. Inventories of homes on the market rose by 0.2 percent to 4.49 million units, meaning it would take 11.1 months to exhaust the current backlog at the June sales pace, the second highest level in the past 24 years. The glut of unsold homes is being made worse by a rising wave of foreclosures.

GOP nixes try to release oil from the US stockpile

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Republicans on Thursday scuttled a bill that Democrats hoped would help lower gasoline prices by forcing the Energy Department to release 70 million barrels of oil - about a three-day supply - from the national stockpile. Democrats promised that the action would have produced immediate relief at the pump, as was the case with similar releases in 1991, 2000 and 2005. The Strategic Petroleum Reserve now holds about 700 million barrels. Despite winning a clear 268-157 majority, the measure still lost. Democratic leaders had brought the proposal up for debate under rules requiring a two-thirds vote to pass. But passing the bill by just a majority would have meant allowing Republicans to force a vote on new offshore drilling leases. “They’re hiding from a vote,” said GOP leader John Boehner of Ohio. “They’re scared to death to allow us to ... force their members to vote on drilling.” Democrats said the release from the oil reserve could provide relief at the pump within two weeks, though they would not say how much it would help \$4-per-gallon gas. Earlier releases, such as a 34 million barrel drawdown in 1991 during the Persian Gulf War, caused prices to fall.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Creators of Scrabble knockoff on Facebook sued
NEW YORK (AP)—T-R-O-U-B-L-E could loom for a Scrabble knockoff that has become one of the most popular activities on Facebook. Hasbro Inc., the company that owns the word game’s North American rights, sued the creators of the Scrabulous program on Thursday, less than two weeks after the release of an authorized version of Scrabble for Facebook. Hasbro said in its lawsuit that Scrabulous violates its copyright and trademarks. Separately, Hasbro asked Facebook to block the game.

NY AG sues banking giant UBS for securities fraud
NEW YORK (AP)—New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo sued banking giant UBS for fraud Thursday, accusing the company of marketing tens of billions of dollars of auction-rate securities as safe even when they knew the investments were in trouble. The civil lawsuit claims bank executives pulled their personal investments from the floundering market last winter when they realized a crisis was brewing but continued to tell customers all was well.

Stocks tumble after sales of existing homes fall
NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street abruptly ended an earnings-driven rally and closed sharply lower Thursday after a steeper-than-expected decline in existing home sales and worries about the financial sector chilled the market’s recent optimism. The major indexes fell about 2 percent, including the Dow Jones industrial average, which lost more than 280 points. The Dow fell 283.10, or 2.43 percent, to 11,349.28. It was the biggest decline for the Dow since June 26.

Nation

One killed in violent NH storms

DEERFIELD, N.H. (AP)—Violent storms on Thursday in a 25-mile-long swath of central New Hampshire destroyed several homes, damaged dozens of others and left at least one person dead, authorities said as police and firefighters went door-to-door searching for more possible victims.

Other people were hurt, including the husband and baby grandson of the woman killed.

Gov. John Lynch said at an

evening news conference that about a dozen people were injured. There was no immediate word on how serious their injuries were.

The National Weather Service was trying to determine whether a tornado was responsible for the damage, which stretched from about 10 miles east of Concord to beyond the eastern end of Lake Winnepesaukee near the Maine border.

Around Northwood Lake in

Epsom, about 10 homes in one area were badly damaged or destroyed by the storm, which tossed couches and refrigerators along with downed trees and other debris.

Katie Toll's belongings were scattered around her two-story home, which was pushed off its foundation. A bed ended up wrapped around a tree.

"I'm really just in shock," the 22-year-old said. "My life was in here."

Lynch declared an emergency in five counties and called up the National Guard to help.

About a dozen Guard soldiers were dispatched to Epsom. Lynch said no further callup was anticipated.

He said officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency would be in the area Friday to assess damage.

"It appears that there are at least 100 homes damaged and probably at least a half dozen homes which have been completely destroyed," Lynch said after a helicopter tour.

State Fire Marshal William Degnan said Brenda Stevens, 57, was killed in Deerfield, near Epsom, in one of the homes that was destroyed. Her husband and 3-month-old grandchild were injured, Degnan said without giving their names or other details.

The weather service had issued a tornado warning, and some witnesses described seeing at least one funnel cloud. One or two small tornadoes touch down in New Hampshire each year, meteorologist Kirk Apffel said.

Air Force missile launch crew fell asleep

WASHINGTON (AP)—Three ballistic missile crew members in North Dakota fell asleep while holding classified launch code devices this month, triggering an investigation by military and National Security Agency experts, the Air Force said Thursday.

The probe found that the missile launch codes were outdated and remained secure at all times. But the July 12 incident comes on the heels of a series of missteps by the Air Force that had already put the service under intense scrutiny.

"This was just a procedural violation that we investigated," said Air Force Col. Dewey Ford, a spokesman at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colo. "We determined that there was no compromise."

The lapse, which involved a crew based at Minot Air Force Base, was serious enough, however, to prompt an investigation by the 91st Missile Wing, in conjunction with codes experts at the 20th Air Force, U.S. Strategic Command and the National Security Agency.

And it delivers another blow to the beleaguered Air Force.

Last month, Defense Secretary Robert Gates announced a sweeping shake-up of the Air Force leadership, blaming them for failing to fully address a series of nuclear-related mishaps.

Secret Service wants more money

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Secret Service has asked for an extra \$9.5 million to cover unexpected costs of protecting the presidential candidates during what has turned into an historic year for the agency's campaign security job.

Among other things, the extra money would be used for the added costs for the candidates' international travel and a late-in-the-game decision by Barack Obama to accept the Democratic nomination at Denver's Invesco Field at Mile High - an open-air, 76,000-seat stadium -

instead of the 20,000-seat Pepsi Center, which is the site of the party's national convention.

Presidential candidates are traveling overseas with Secret Service protection more than ever before.

Obama is on a six-day trip to Jordan, Israel, Germany, France and Britain. Before that he was on a three-day congressionally sponsored trip to Afghanistan and Iraq. Republican candidate John McCain has traveled to Canada, Colombia and Mexico under the agency's protection.

The 2008 presidential cam-

paign cycle is the longest in Secret Service history by about five months. The Secret Service budgeted \$106.65 million for the 2008 campaign cycle, compared to \$73.3 million in 2004.

"I thought we had a very, very good plan in place for the campaign," Secret Service Director Mark Sullivan said in an interview with The Associated Press earlier this week. "If past history was any type of an indicator, we anticipated picking up protection somewhere in January, February, March of 2008."



AFTER DOLLY

Mario Hinojosa, left, walks past his flooded home as he checks on other neighbors after Hurricane Dolly July 24, 2008 in San Benito, Texas. Hurricane Dolly slammed into the South Texas coast Wednesday with punishing rain and winds of 100 mph and knocking out power to thousands.

AP

Arrest made in Phoenix college shooting

PHOENIX (AP)—A former student shot three people Thursday in a computer room at a Phoenix community college, injuring one of them critically, authorities said. The gunman fled but a suspect was arrested nearby.

The shooting at South Mountain Community College was part of a running dispute between the suspect and one of the victims, said Sgt. Andy Hill, a spokesman for the Phoenix Police Department. "This was not a random shooter going around the campus

shooting," Hill said, noting that two of the injured people were struck by stray bullets.

The suspect was identified as Rodney Smith, who police said was a former student at the college. Details on when he attended the school were not immediately available.

Smith, 22, was arrested at a home a few miles away within a half-hour of the first 911 call about the shooting, police spokesman Reuben Gonzales said.

Also arrested at the home were Smith's parents and three

other people on charges of interfering with an investigation and failure to obey a police officer, Gonzales said.

Yessenia Lara, an 18-year-old student who witnessed the shooting, said the gunman was one of two men who had been fighting in the computer building.

"I saw someone get punched and then I heard three shots after that. Everybody basically ducked, and the shooter got away," Lara said, adding that the victims were yelling in pain.

ACROSS THE NATION

Ark. man accused in 4 boat deaths pleads guilty

MIAMI (AP)—One of two men accused of killing four people aboard a fishing charter last year pleaded guilty Thursday in exchange for an agreement that prosecutors will not seek the death penalty. Kirby Archer, who had previously pleaded not guilty to the September boat hijacking and killings, pleaded guilty to four counts of first-degree murder, kidnapping, illegal seizure of a maritime vessel and other charges. Prosecutors said Archer, 36, and Guillermo Zarabozo, 20, hired the charter boat Joe Cool to go to the Bahamas, then tried to divert it to Cuba. Zarabozo has pleaded not guilty and blamed Archer for killing the captain, his wife and two crew members.

Charges dismissed against Marine in Iraq shootings

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The Marine Corps said Thursday that charges were dismissed against a Camp Pendleton Marine sniper accused in the shooting deaths of two Syrians in Iraq. The Marine Corps said the charges against Sgt. John Winnick II were dismissed without prejudice by the commanding general of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, meaning charges could be brought again at a later time. Winnick, 24, was charged with two counts of voluntary manslaughter and failing to adhere to the military's rules of engagement by firing without reasonable certainty that his targets were hostile.

Feds say Utah mine operator courted danger

PRICE, Utah (AP)—The operator of a collapsed Utah mine violated safety protocols by cutting coal pillars that should have been left standing to prevent cave-ins, federal regulators said Thursday. The officials said a subsidiary of Ohio-based Murray Energy Corp. undermined other pillars by excavating coal from tunnel floors. They also faulted the company's engineering firm, Agapito Associates Inc. of Grand Junction, Colo., for conducting a flawed evaluation of mining dangers. Murray Energy chief Bob Murray has insisted that taking down the pillars, a practice called retreat mining, had nothing to do with the collapse. He argued from the start that it was caused by an earthquake.

Grizzly bear attacks woman in Alaska near lodge

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—A 21-year-old woman working at a lodge for the summer was attacked by a grizzly bear about 25 yards outside a building. Abby Sisk, of Ogden, Utah, was returning from a hike late Wednesday when the bear came out of the bushes near the gravel path where she was walking at the Kenai Princess Lodge in Cooper Landing. A lodge guest heard screaming and looked outside, then ran to help Sisk and managed to scare the bear away, Alaska State Troopers spokeswoman Beth Ipsen said. "It had her head in its jaws and it dragged her a few feet," Ipsen said. She said Sisk had major cuts to her face and head.

Okla. crane fall kills man watching construction

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Church members watching the steeple being raised on their new building looked on in horror Thursday as a crane holding the structure toppled, crushing a car and killing a 79-year-old man who had been watching from inside the vehicle, firefighters said. The man's 78-year-old wife, who was also in the car, was transported to a hospital in good condition, ambulance officials said. A group of people had gathered in southwest Oklahoma City to watch the installation of the steeple when the crane collapsed in the parking lot, said Deputy Fire Chief Cecil Clay.

Report: Hate crimes hit 5-year high in LA County

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hate crimes in Los Angeles County soared last year to their highest mark in five years even as overall crime dropped across the region, according to a report released Thursday. The annual report by the county's human relations commission shows 763 hate crimes were reported in 2007, a 28 percent increase from 2006. The numbers buck last year's overall crime trends, which saw a decrease of 6 percent in Los Angeles County and 5 percent in the city of Los Angeles, the report notes. The most common hate crimes were those motivated by race, with 310 committed against black people and 125 against Latinos. However, crimes in which anti-immigrant slurs were used dropped slightly.

Asia

Attacks kill 9 in Kashmir, including mom, four kids

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—A suspected Islamic militant threw a hand grenade at a group of migrant laborers in Indian Kashmir, killing a woman and her four children Thursday in one of two attacks that claimed a total of nine lives in the disputed Himalayan region.

Separately, authorities imposed a curfew in the city of Jammu, clamping down on a Hindu nationalist protest, police said. The attacks and protests are part of a

surge in unrest in recent months in the region that is claimed by both India and Pakistan.

The grenade attack in Srinagar, the region's biggest city, occurred as families of migrant laborers waited to board a bus to go home, Police Superintendent Atul Goel said.

Mohammed Afroze, a worker from the northern Indian state of Bihar, lost his wife and four children, ages 4 to 12, in the attack. The blast wounded 21

more people, police spokesman Prabhakar Tripathi said.

In another incident, four members of a family were slain by unidentified gunmen in Mar-math, a village 145 miles southwest of Srinagar, said Hemant Lohia, a senior police officer.

Lohia said the killers were Islamic separatists who attacked staged a retaliatory attack on the house of a former rebel, killing him and his wife, daughter and a nephew.

China clamps down on business visas

BEIJING (AP)—Business travel appears to be the latest victim of China's ever-tightening security crackdown before the Beijing Olympics.

Government officials confirmed Thursday that visas for business people will be tougher to get during the Olympic period. Authorities have repeatedly said the security measures are needed

because the games, which begin in two weeks, are a target for terrorism.

In a report that appeared to underscore the threat, the official Xinhua News Agency said police in co-host city Shanghai said Thursday they had cracked a terrorist plot targeting the city's soccer stadium.

However, authorities did not give any details or say how seri-

ous the threat had been.

"We have staged raids and cracked a group of terrorists," Cheng Jiulong, head of Olympic security in Shanghai, was quoted as saying. He refused to say when the plot was detected, how many suspects were detained or where they were from.

Shanghai will host a dozen soccer matches during the Olympics.

Sri Lanka says it seized rebel territory

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lankan forces battled rebel gunmen deep inside the nation's northern jungles Thursday, killing 25 guerrilla fighters and seizing new territory, the military said. Other battles killed 25 rebels and four soldiers, the military said.

The fighting in the northern

Mullaitivu district, a key part of the rebels' de facto state, began early Thursday morning and erupted into hours of gunbattles, said military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara.

Troops eventually captured a section of rebel-held territory about two miles south of the village of Mallavi, which lies

along a key road the rebels use for moving troops and supplies, he said.

Troops killed 25 rebels and recovered seven of their bodies, he said.

The fighting has escalated in recent months as top Sri Lankan officials vowed to crush the rebel group by the end of the year.



ASIAN BRIEFS

7 S. Koreans killed in house fire

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A fire ripped through a boardinghouse in South Korea early Friday, killing seven people and injuring 10 others, an official said. The blaze occurred about 1:25 a.m. (1625 GMT) in Yongin, 30 miles south of the capital Seoul and it took firefighters 40 minutes to get it under control, fire official Yu Chang-seon said. The seven who died are believed to have inhaled toxic gas, he said. The fire also injured 10 others, three of whom were in serious condition. About 40 people were sleeping in the boardinghouse at the time. Fire authorities were not sure what caused the blaze.

Plane in India catches fire at takeoff

NEW DELHI (AP)—A plane taking off from New Delhi's main airport caught fire forcing all 241 passengers to escape through the emergency exit, according to media reports Friday. The Air Mauritius pilot braked when a bird apparently hit the plane, sparking a fire that spread to the jet-liner's undercarriage, the Hindustan Times newspaper reported. Rescue workers and firefighters rushed to evacuate the plane and put out the blaze Thursday afternoon. All 241 passengers and 11 crew members on the New Delhi to Mauritius flight escaped safely through the emergency exit, though the chaotic scene caused some to panic, newspapers reported.

Earthquake rescuers carry Olympic torch

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese state media say 22 rescuers who helped victims of May's devastating earthquake have been chosen as torchbearers for the Olympic torch. The official Xinhua News Agency says soldiers, firefighters and civil servants will carry the Olympic torch as it passes through central Henan province on Friday. "The rescuers were newly made torchbearers because of the courageous feat they performed in the earthquake relief," Xinhua reports. The torchbearers will carry the flame through Zhengzhou, Kaifeng, Luoyang and Anyang cities in Henan. The torch on Aug. 3-5 will head to Sichuan province, the site of the 7.9-magnitude earthquake that left nearly 70,000 dead, another 18,000 missing and more than 5 million homeless.

Report: Taliban using sophisticated media network

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The Taliban have created a sophisticated media network to undermine support for the Afghan government, sending threats by text message and spreading the militia's views through songs available as ring tones, according to a report released Thursday. The International Crisis Group report comes as the Islamist militia that was ousted from power in Afghanistan by the 2001 U.S.-led invasion is making a violent comeback, particularly in the country's south and east. The Taliban's propaganda exploits civilian killings by foreign forces and corruption in the U.S.-backed government to add to Afghans' disillusionment about their lives, according to the report by the Brussels, Belgium-based group.

World

Obama urges Europeans, Americans to beat terror

BERLIN (AP)—Cheered by an enormous international crowd, Democratic presidential contender Barack Obama on Thursday summoned Europeans and Americans together to "defeat terror and dry up the well of extremism that supports it" as surely as they conquered communism a generation ago.

Obama said he was speaking as a citizen, not as a president, but the evening was awash in politics as the first-term U.S. senator sought to burnish his international credentials for the fall campaign at home. His remarks before a crowd estimated at more than 200,000 inevitably invited comparison to historic speeches in the same city by Presidents Kennedy and Reagan.

Now a presidential candidate himself, Obama borrowed rhetoric from his own appeals to campaign audiences this year in the likes of Berlin, N.H., as he spoke in one of the great cities of Europe.

"People of Berlin, people of the world, this is our moment. This is our time," he declared.

"The walls between old allies on either side of the Atlantic cannot stand," Obama said, speaking not far from where the Berlin Wall once divided the city.

"The walls between the countries with the most and those with the least cannot stand. The walls between races and tribes, natives and immigrants, Christians and Muslims and Jews cannot stand," he said.

Obama's speech was the centerpiece of a fast-paced tour through Europe designed to reassure skeptical voters in the U.S. about his ability to lead the country and take a frayed cross-Atlantic alliance in a new direction after eight years of the Bush administration.

Republicans chafed at the media attention Obama's campaign-season trip has drawn. Presidential rival John McCain went to a German restaurant in swing-state Ohio, and said he'd like to deliver a speech in Germany, but as president not candidate.

In Die Welt, the German publication, Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Mich., wrote scathingly of the Democratic candidate and his views on Iraq and the rest of the world: "No one knows which Obama will show. Will it be the ideological, left-wing Democratic primary candidate who vowed to 'end' the war rather than win it, or the Democratic nominee who dismisses the progressing coalition victory as a 'distraction'? Will it be the American populist who has told supporters in the United States that he will demand more from our allies in Europe and get it, or the liberal internationalist hell-bent on being liked in Europe's salons?"



Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., waves as he arrives at the Victory Column in Berlin, Thursday, July 24, 2008.



WORLD BRIEFS

Serbia IDs man behind Karadzic's false identity

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP)—The real Dragan Dabic has emerged—and the 66-year-old construction worker was shocked Thursday to discover his identity had apparently been stolen by one of the world's most notorious war crimes suspects. Radovan Karadzic assumed Dabic's identity as a cover during the autocratic rule of his mentor Slobodan Milosevic, officials said Thursday, promising to track down anyone who helped the Bosnian Serb warlord stay on the run from genocide charges for nearly 13 years. The true Dabic lives in Ruma, a Serbian town just north of Belgrade, according to Rasim Ljajic, a government official in charge of war crimes.

S. African lawyer nominated as UN human rights chief

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—One of South Africa's leading female jurists who won acclaim defending apartheid opponents was nominated Thursday to serve as the next United Nations high commissioner for human rights. Navanethem Pillay was formally put forward for the job by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who cited her "outstanding credentials in human rights and justice." Pillay, who holds a Harvard Law School degree, serves as an appeals chamber judge with the Dutch-based International Criminal Court, where she has been since 2003. Pillay, who is in her mid-60s, is of Tamil descent. Her selection now goes to the General Assembly for consideration where she is likely to be approved at a plenary meeting next

Monday, U.N. officials and diplomats said.

Iraq banned from Beijing Olympics amid feud

BAGHDAD (AP)—Just two weeks before the start of the Olympics, Iraq was told Thursday it's not welcome in Beijing because of a political feud in Baghdad that angered the games' guardians and exiled a country that arrived to a roaring ovation at the opening ceremony four years ago. The International Olympic Committee told Iraqi sports officials in a letter that it would uphold its ban imposed in June after the government in Baghdad replaced its national Olympic panel with members not recognized by the IOC. The IOC had called the move unacceptable government interference.

Iran ends cooperation with UN nuclear arms probe

VIENNA, Austria (AP)—Iran signaled Thursday that it will no longer cooperate with U.N. experts probing for signs of clandestine nuclear weapons work, confirming the investigation is at a dead end a year after it began. The announcement from Iranian Vice President Gholam Reza Aghazadeh compounded skepticism about denting Tehran's nuclear defiance, just five days after Tehran stonewalled demands from six world powers that it halt activities capable of producing the fissile core of warheads. Besides demanding a suspension of uranium enrichment—a process that can create both fuel for nuclear reactors and payloads for atomic bombs—the six powers have been pressing Tehran to cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency's probe.

Maharlika – PinoyNews

27,765 pass RP's nursing board exam

By VERONICA UY
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—A total of 27,765 or 43.07 percent of the 64,459 who took the nursing licensure exam last June 1 and 2 passed it, the Board of Nursing of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) said Thursday evening.

"Congratulations to those who passed," said BoN member Dean Marco Sto. Tomas.

More than 100 examinees made it to the top 10, he said.

Aira Therese Salamanca Javier of the University of Santo Tomas topped the test with a rating of 86 percent.

The seven-member BoN, which prepared and conducted the examinations, is chaired by Carmencita Abaquin, and

includes Sto. Tomas, Leonila Faire, Betty Merritt, Perla Po, Yolanda Arugay, and Amelia Rosales.

But the BoN said the test results of one examinee "was withheld pending final determination of her liabilities under the rules and regulations governing licensure examinations."

Just as the exam was given in the cities of Manila, Baguio, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Legazpi, Lucena, Tacloban, Tuguegarao and Zamboanga last June, oath-taking will also be decentralized.

In Manila, BoN said the oath-taking ceremony of the successful examinees in this batch as well as the previous ones who have not taken their Oath of Professional will be held before the BoN on August 19 (Tuesday) and 20 (Wednesday),

with morning (8 a.m.) and afternoon (1 p.m.) sessions at the SMX Convention Center, SM Mall of Asia, Pasay City.

"All must come in their white gala uniform, nurses cap, white duty shoes, without earrings, hair not touching the collar and without corsage," BoN said.

The board also announced that admission tickets for the Manila oath-taking will be available starting August 1 in the respective colleges of nursing.

"Walk-in inductees who wish to join the Manila oath-taking ceremonies may secure admission tickets at the Philippine Nurses' Association, 1663 F.T. Benitez Street, Malate, Manila on a strictly first-come, first-serve basis," it said.

Outside Manila, only Tacloban City has not scheduled a date for oath-taking yet.



NEW AIRPORT OPENS

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, second from left, salutes during her inspection of the Ninoy Aquino International Terminal 3 in Manila, Philippines, Thursday, July 24, 2008. The airport terminal, constructed six years ago in the Philippine capital and held up by a yearlong legal dispute involving Germany's Fraport AG, has partially opened for domestic flights, officials said.

Thanks to OFWs, retirees, condo market booming

By RONNEL DOMINGO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Condominium developers plan to build a total of some 40,000 units over the next five years as overseas Filipino workers and retirees are driving up demand for residential property despite market woes elsewhere in the world, a real estate service firm said.

A significant number of OFWs and Filipino retirees from around the world that reside in the Philippines or considering residence here account for the

robust sales of midrange properties, said Mike Mabutol, a director at CB Richard Ellis Philippines.

Mabutol, who is in charge of investment properties and capital markets at CBRE, said OFWs had long been a lucrative market for residential properties.

OFWs give priority to "investing their hard-earned income in residential properties," he said. "Retirees have also ramped up property spending, mostly from life savings and retirement benefits," he added.

CBRE data show the increasing demand from both markets is pushing

developers to build housing and condominium projects in which units cost P1.0-P2.5 million.

The data show 28 residential condominium buildings with a total of 18,000 units are expected to rise this year up to 2013 in Makati City plus 33 condo buildings totaling 11,500 units in the adjacent Fort Bonifacio Global City.

Demand for high-end residential condominiums is also growing, with prices in Makati rising to between P100,000 and P130,000 a square meter this year from P90,000 a sq. m. in 2006, the data also show.

Home décor, sewing class for Saipan OFWs

The Philippine Consulate General's Philippine Overseas Labor Office will conduct a home décor plus sewing course for overseas Filipino workers from Aug. 3 to Sept. 21, 2008. Classes will be held for eight Sundays, from 9am to 12pm at the Filipino Workers Resource Center, ground floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe, Saipan.

Students of the course will learn how to sew bedsheets, curtains, pillow cases, throw pillows, and tissue box covers.

In addition, they will be taught how to make headbands and recycle old denim pants into handbags. This entrepreneurial course hopes to provide Filipino workers with an option to engage in business upon their return for good to the Philippines.

OFW applicants need to have basic sewing skills and able to operate a sewing machine to enroll. Those interested and qualified may file their application at POLO.

Registration starts Thursday, July 24,

2008 on a first-come, first-served basis. Only the first 30 applicants will be admitted to this course. Applicants are requested to bring their entry permit or copy of their CNMI labor renewal processing receipt.

Qualified applicants will be asked to attend the orientation session on August 1, 2008, Friday, 6pm at the FWRC.

For inquiries, visit the POLO office at the ground floor of the Marianas Business Plaza or call 235-3411. (PR)

LABOR FRONT

Alien worker's immediate family member

By FERDIE P. DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Q: When can an immediate family member of an alien worker be allowed to enter the CNMI?

A: An "immediate family member" of a foreign national worker is a spouse for whom the worker can produce an appropriate marriage certificate or record. An "immediate family member" of the worker is also a child for whom the worker can produce an appropriate birth certificate or record.

Pursuant to the Public Law 15-108 or the new labor reform law, an immediate family member may enter the CNMI if the worker provides documentation that he or she earns an annual wage equal to or greater than 150 percent of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines for the State of Hawaii. According to Labor, these guidelines are published each year in the *Federal Register* and online at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/07poverty.shtml>.

Alternatively, according to the new Alien Labor Rules and Regulations, a worker may provide equivalent assurance that immediate family members will not require social services from the CNMI government due to lack of income or support during their period of stay in the Commonwealth. This may include information with respect to housing arrangements, cooking facility and food arrangements, and an undertaking not to apply for or accept such social services directly or indirectly.

Q: What are the other requirements needed for an alien worker to bring in an immediately family member?

A: The other requirement is documentation of insurance coverage for each family member entering the

CNMI. The worker must also show documentation of arrangements for the education of each minor child entering the CNMI.

Q: Can an alien worker who has been in the CNMI for one year permitted to bring in his or her immediate family member?

A: According to the Regulations, an immediate family member may enter the CNMI only after 90 days have passed since the alien worker entered. For purposes of this requirement, the alien worker "entered" the CNMI on the date that his or her entry permit was issued.

An immediately family member may enter the CNMI as a student at a private education institution and as a parent accompanying a student under the special visa provisions with respect to student visitors. An immediate family member over the age of 21 may be employed in the CNMI and the same terms and subject to the same terms and subject requirements as any foreign national worker. No exit from the CNMI is required to change from immediate family member status to foreign national worker status.

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Peso waxes, wanes on global oil prices

MANILA, Philippines—The peso took a roller-coaster ride Thursday on the currency spot market, breaching the 44-per-dollar mark and hitting an intraday high of 43.83 in early trade, and closing at 44.23 on heavy profit-taking.

News of softening oil prices across the globe had a telling effect on the peso's performance.

"In the past few days, there was a change in market sentiment

because of the drop in oil prices," said Chinatrust Commercial Bank Philippines treasurer Roland Avante. "There has always been a strong correlation between oil prices and the US dollar, so there was a sell-down on the US dollar."

The financial markets cheered the fall in oil prices, which had hit about \$124 per barrel from the record-high of about \$147 per barrel seen in previous weeks.

Avante said currency traders also took comfort from a signal from the central bank, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), that it wouldn't hesitate to further jack up interest rates to prevent runaway inflation.

The BSP last week raised its benchmark interest rate, the overnight borrowing rate, by a hefty 0.50 percentage point to 5.75 percent, bringing the total increase

to 0.75 point over the past two months. But the dumping of dollars was "overdone so there was profit-taking against the peso afterward," Avante added.

The peso's gains early in the day were thus wiped out at the end. The peso shed 0.21 from Wednesday's close of 44.02 to the dollar.

The volume of trading fell to \$884 million from Wednesday's hefty turnover of \$1.5 billion.

EXCHANGE RATES	
DOLLAR	PESO
\$1.00 =	P44.2

Alleged extortionists bomb bus; 1 killed, 35 wounded

By OLIVER TEVES
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Authorities suspected extortionists were behind a homemade bomb blast that ripped through a commuter bus in the southern Philippines, killing one and wounding 35 people.

A 16-year-old nursing student succumbed to wounds early Friday, a day after the crude bomb filled with broken nails detonated as the bus was preparing to leave a Digos city terminal, said the city's disaster official, Rey Caballero.

He said 35 people, including passengers and nearby vendors, were brought to hospitals, up from 27 initially reported.

The owner of the bus company, Rey Uy, who is also the mayor of nearby Tagum city, had complained of extortion demands, provincial police Chief Cesario Darantinao said.

Uy spoke on a local radio

station but did not identify any group.

Regional police chief Andres Caro said the bombing pointed to Al Khobar, the notorious extortion syndicate that has been terrorizing bus companies and has been blamed for planting several bus bombs in the area.

Officials say the group has ties to Muslim militants, who are active in the region alongside communist rebels.

The Roman Catholic bishop of Digos, Guillermo Afable, said two similar bombings last year also were linked to extortion gangs.

He offered prayers for the bus bomb victims and called for justice for the perpetrators.

Earlier in the week, regional military spokesman Maj. Armand Rico said security forces foiled a terrorist bomb attack in nearby Davao city when they intercepted a motorcycle rigged with explosives. The driver escaped, he said.

Ship with 20 Filipinos seized in Somalia

By CYNTHIA BALANA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The government is coordinating with a Japanese shipping firm, manning agents and international maritime authorities to secure the safe release of 20 Filipino seamen of a bulk carrier seized by pirates off Somalia last Sunday, Vice President Noli de Castro said Thursday.

In an interview, De Castro, who is also presidential adviser on Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), said the Department of Foreign Affairs has instructed the embassies in Japan and Kenya to stay in touch with MMS Co. Ltd. of Tokyo, owner of the MV Stella Maris and provide regular updates on negotiations for the hostages' release.

The families here of the seamen have been informed by the DFA of the incident and of efforts to secure their release, De Castro said.

DFA Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Esteban Conejos said the Panamanian-flagged ship, reportedly loaded with lead and zinc, was boarded and seized by the pirates in the Gulf of Aden, which is in international waters, at around 8:30 a.m. Sunday.

Conejos said the ship owners reestablished contact with the ship's crew and their abductors after two days and were assured that the hostages were unharmed.

As of posting time, the ship was sailing toward the northeast tip of Somalia.

"I was assured that contact

has been established between the crew and the owner of the ship... This was also according to the captain who is also a Filipino. All the 20 Filipinos are safe and sound," Conejos said.

Although there has yet been no report of a ransom demand, De Castro said the government would stand firm on its no-ransom policy.

Conejos said that, like similar incidents in the past, the government will not be directly involved in the negotiations for the release of the hostages.

"I stressed to the local manning agent that it is the policy of government never to negotiate with pirates. We look towards the local manning agents and the ship owner and the host country because they have the responsibility to ensure the

safety and the earliest release of the crew," Conejos said.

Pirate attacks in Somalia and Nigeria went up in the first quarter of 2008, making Africa the world's top piracy hotspot, the International Maritime Bureau reported earlier this month.

In April, Somali pirates seized a luxury French yacht with a crew of 30 on board, six of them Filipinos. A week later, French troops arrested six pirates after the hostages were released.

On May 25, about five Filipino seafarers were also held hostage after the MV Amiya Scan was hijacked in the Gulf of Aden. The vessel and its passengers were released by pirates 30 days later. The Filipino crew arrived in the Philippines last July 1.

Kidnapped daughter of retired US Marine is freed unharmed

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Kidnappers have freed unharmed a retired U.S. Marine's 19-year-old daughter a day after snatching her, police said Thursday.

Chief Superintendent Ricardo Padilla said it was unclear if Cristina Loyola's family paid the 3 million pesos (US\$68,000) ransom her captors demanded.

She was freed Monday not far from her home in the resort city of Tagaytay, south of Manila, a day after she and her Filipino-American father, Ver Loyola, were seized, he said.

The kidnappers freed the 71-year-old father three hours after the pair were taken hostage.

Police said four gunmen barged into the Loyolas' home, tied up his wife and maid, then drove away with him and his

daughter in the family car.

They took two cell phones, jewelry worth US\$1,570 and US\$1,900 in cash, and demanded the ransom.

"We're still conducting follow-up operations to identify and arrest the suspects," said Padilla, the regional police chief.

Kidnappings for ransom are common in the Philippines, but more often occur in the violence-torn south. Police officials said they have neutralized most kidnapping gangs in Manila and nearby provinces.

Earlier this month, police filed kidnapping and murder charges against a police officer who allegedly confessed he abducted a retired pilot and his driver near Tagaytay. The victims were later found dead.

4 get life for slay of student

MANILA, Philippines—Four men were sentenced to life imprisonment by the Manila Regional Trial Court for the killing of a University of the Philippines nursing student inside an FX taxi in 2004.

Convicted by RTC Branch 53 Judge Reynaldo Alhambra of attempted robbery with homicide for the death of 20-year-old Jim Carlo Calub were Herbert Malubay, William Sudayao, Amador Ablana III and Michael Llaneta Jr.

The court also ordered the men to pay P325,000 in damages to the victim's family for destroying his promising nursing career.

The court gave weight to the testimonies of FX driver Renato Bumanglag and passenger James Renan Montano, who both positively identified the suspects.

In its ruling, the court said

the suspects' denial and alibi that they were somewhere else when the crime was committed "did not deserve merit."

Alhambra said the prosecution witnesses had no reason or motive to give a false testimony.

Bumanglag told the court that at around 9 p.m. of June 24, 2004, Malubay and Llaneta rode in the back of the taxi where the victim was seated.

Two more men, identified as Sudayao and Ablana, also boarded the vehicle. Ablana, Bumanglag said, sat beside him while Sudayao moved to the middle row.

When the vehicle reached Remedios Street at the corner of Taft Avenue, the victim began shouting for help as Malubay, Llaneta and Sudayao ganged up on him and stabbed him several times. (*Philippine Daily Inquirer*)

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Maharlika – Pinoystyle

Indie film takes Osang seriously

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—She's feistier than ever. Going indie doesn't mean Rosanna Roces has mellowed.

In an exclusive interview, she told Inquirer Entertainment that she considers the independent movement as a "shot in the arm" for the "dying" movie industry.

Osang, as she's known in show biz circles, has accepted the role of Piolo Pascual's mother in the twin bill "Manila" (in the "City After Dark" segment), directed by young Turks Raya Martin and Adolf Alix Jr.

In the indie scene, she noted, filmmakers and actors are allowed "to experiment without being exploited."

She asserted: "Alam mo naman sa TV at pelikula, ang mga artista hindi ginagalang. Sa indie, pinapahalagahan ang pagiging artist. Hindi pino-prostitute ang talent mo."

She felt the difference on her first visit on the set of "Manila" last week. "Iba ang turing sa iyo. Hindi ka pinaglaruan sa set," she related.



Roces

Dreams fulfilled

Earlier, when she attended the opening of Cinemalaya, actor Johnny Delgado welcomed her, thus, "You'll enjoy yourself in the indie scene."

"I told him na hindi makukumpleto ang career ko pag hindi ko siya nakatrabaho," she said. "Ang mga pangarap ko hindi lang natutupad, nadadagdag pa."

One such dream is her role in "Manila," which was originated by the late great Charito Solis in Ishmael Bernal's "City After Dark."

"Pinangarap ko rin na makatrabaho sina Charito, Bernal at Lino Brocka," Osang said.

She noted that it's her first time to work with Piolo. As preparation, she hung out with him on the set of the other segment of "Manila," which was inspired by Brocka's "Jaguar." (The "City" part is directed by Martin; the "Jaguar" section by Alix.)

She also watched Piolo's old movies, like "Dekada '70," and TV shows like "Lobo." "Gusto kong pag aralan kung paano siya kumilos... 'yung physiology niya. Kasi dapat mag-ina kami."

Homework

She needs to do extra homework because their first scene together (to be shot weeks from now) is particularly intense. "Bugbugan agad. Kaya dapat pamilyar na kami sa isa't isa. Mahirap pa ang role. Grabe ang kambyo ng emotions."

But she refrained from watching the original "City." She explained "May tendency kasi na i-compare ang performance mo. Gusto ko, sariling interpretation ko."

Neither did she watch the TV version of "Ligaya ang Itawag Mo sa Akin" before doing "Ligaya" the movie; nor "Private Show" before doing the sequel "Curacha" and "Natutulog Ba ang Diyos" the movie before doing the TV soap remake.

Work on "Manila" has yet to start, but another indie film, Alix's "Aurora," is already in the works.

In "Aurora," she'll go head to head with Anita Linda and Katherine Luna.

Osang said she learns a lot from watching veteran actors like Anita. "Ang dami mong pointers na makukuha. Ang nagturo sa akin ng acting, si Perla Bautista (Anita's co-star in "Adela") noong Seiko days ko pa. Tinuruan niya ako kung paano magbitaw ng dialogue, na dapat hindi hysterical; dapat natural."

A boy's name for her next baby

By MARINEL CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Richard Gomez and Lucy Torres, whose daughter Juliana turns 8 this year, are working on another baby, preferably a boy. They already have a name in mind: Manuel Antonio.

Richard told Inquirer Entertainment, "Manuel is the name of Lucy's dad, while Antonio is my lolo's name. But really, we will welcome either a boy or a girl."

Lucy added: "We're not rushing. It took me a while to get pregnant with Juliana, too."

Richard would like to have five kids in all; Lucy, six. "We're way behind," Goma noted.

Lucy, 32, said she's used to being asked about having another child. "I don't feel pressured, though."

Chatting with entertainment writers last week during the launch of Appeton Kid Syrup, Lucy also revealed the secret to her harmonious 10-year marriage, the interests she shares with Juliana, and her dream of one day seeing Richard in another romance movie with either Sharon Cuneta or Dawn Zulueta, his former girlfriends.

How do you bond with Juliana?

We love to bake and cook; we make her baon for school. We also do arts and crafts. Her activities with Richard are more physical, like pillow fights, or sliding down the staircase banister. She likes to say, "Me and daddy, we do danger."

Does Juliana show interest in joining show biz? Is that okay with you?

I don't think she'd like to be in show biz. She's very reserved. But if that's her calling, who am I to say no? It should be only after she's done with school, though.



Lucy Torres-Gomez

How do you discipline her?

I don't believe in hitting a child, especially using a belt. When she sees you wearing the belt, matatakot na s'ya sa'yo even if you're not mad at her. Her teacher recommends that should you want to reprimand your child by making palo, use a naughty stick or wooden spoon. It's effective. When Juliana is stubborn I ask her, "Do you want the naughty stick?" She says, "No, mommy."

You and Richard are still happily married. What's your secret?

Just like any other couple, we have arguments. [But] our line of communication is always open. We're really good friends. We've been together for so long, but I still look forward to being with him at night. He is still the highlight of my day.

Is it true that a Richard-Sharon movie is in the offing?

There's no formal offer yet. I miss the love stories that we saw a lot of in

the 1990s. I would love to see him in a movie with Sharon because they had good chemistry. I also hope to see him with Dawn again.

Won't that make you feel jealous?

Not at all; Kinikilig ako sa mga romantic scenes. I think it's the magic of the movies that drew me to Richard. I have no problem with him doing kissing scenes. What's a love story without locking lips?

The movies that he did with Sharon and Dawn were great love stories. I recently watched "Minsan Minahal Kita" on cable. I love that film. I also love "Hihintayin Kita sa Langit," especially that part where inikot-ikot ni Richard si Dawn sa bukid. Inggit talaga ako.

Don't you have offers to do movies yourself?

I can't act. I have great respect for actors who can cry even when they're happy in real life. How do you turn off that happiness? I can't do that.

PERSONAL FINANCE

When two investors become one

Editor's Note: This is a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

Question: My wife and I just got married this year and we're excited at the prospect of living our lives together. We're in our 30s already and with good jobs, and we both felt that this is the right time to finally tie the knot. One of our goals now as a couple is to be financially secure. We would like to invest our money together. What are your tips for couples who are investing? —Arnold

Answer: We congratulate you and your wife, Arnold, for getting married, and for having a responsible attitude toward your financial future!

Since you are asking about investing, we presume that you have some savings tucked away already. This can serve as your initial money pot which you can put to work.

If for some reason, you don't have savings built up yet, make sure that you start an emergency fund first. Ideally, your emergency fund can sustain six months' worth of living expenses. This safety net will ensure that you and your family will be okay if something undesirable happens, such as a job loss, illness, or any other crisis.

With an emergency fund out of the way, you can take a more active role in investing. Since you are going to invest as a couple, below are steps you should follow:

1. Set common goals.

Sit down with your wife and map out financial goals for your family. Some of these goals may be for the medium term (such as a new house) or for the long term (such as a worry-free retirement). If you are planning to have children, you need to also include financial goals to meet their educational expenses.

2. Agree on a time horizon for investing.

Based on your goals, you can set a time frame to achieve them. With a concrete goal and a specified time frame, you are more likely to achieve your goal. For instance, you can say that you'd like to have your dream home in 10 years. You can then prioritize saving for the construction costs of your home, or saving for the down payment of a house and lot purchase in the next 10 years.

For your nest egg for retirement, start saving as early as now so you won't have to catch up and put in big amounts later in life. Compound interest will make your money grow over time.

It may be helpful to consult a financial planner together to map out an investment strategy given your goals, time horizon for investing, and your investment personas.

3. Be honest about your respective assets and liabilities.

By clearing this up early on, you will save yourself from stress and possible disagreements later on.

4. Commit to discuss investment options before making decisions.

Just because you are the head of the family does not mean that your wife cannot put in her own thoughts in investment decisions. Make investing a shared activity and decide on your options together.

5. Know each other's appetite for risk.

In investing, there is always a certain level of risk. Investments with low risk, such as time deposits and money market instruments, may be good for people who are conservative and are wary of risking their money. Investments with high risk, such as stocks or equities, are compatible with those who are more aggressive. There is a medium ground, investments like bonds and bond mutual funds or bond unit investment trust funds, for instance, for those who are willing to take just a little more risk in the hope of earning a profit, but are reluctant to go "all the way" in investing.

Find out at what level of risk you and your wife are comfortable with. Take investments suitable for that level. In case you differ in your appetite for risk, find a common ground.

6. Control the number of investment accounts.

Don't spread out your investments much among several banks, brokers, or financial institutions as it will take time to keep track of everything. Keep it to a manageable minimum.

7. Review your investment portfolio regularly.

Compare your investment's performance against your goals. Adjust your strategy if necessary.

8. Keep important documents safe.

Have your documents kept in a safety deposit box in a bank or in a well-protected safe at home. Keep duplicate copies in a private file which you and your wife can access. Let each other know where important documents are so these can be easily retrieved in case of emergency or upon the untimely death of any of you.

We hope you find these tips helpful. We wish you success in your future.

INQUIRER.net and Citibank invite readers to ask questions regarding financial matters. Send your questions to personal_finance@inquirer.net. Readers are solely responsible for their own investment decisions and should thus conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional advice. INQUIRER.net will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from our web site.

Maharlika – Opinyon

EDITORIAL

Hungry, hungrier

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Grim. That, in a word, sums up the tidings of the second-quarter Social Weather Survey by the poll group Social Weather Stations. Our chief concern is not with the increase in households in the country that experienced “involuntary hunger” at least once in the three months covered by the survey, although that is worrisome enough. It is with the explosion in the number of families suffering from what SWS classifies as “severe hunger.”

From 570,000 families in March, the total number of households reporting severe hunger rose by almost 200,000 to 760,000 in June—a sure sign, an unmistakable symptom, of a slowing economy. In the SWS terminology, severe hunger refers to “those who experienced it ‘Often’ or ‘Always’ in the last three months.”

The increase in the number of families that went hungry at least once in the three-month period “due to lack of anything to eat,” from 15.7 percent in March to 16.3 percent of the total population in June, is not unexpected; the unstoppable rise in fuel and especially food prices in the last several months is a daily economic reality. To be sure, the proportion is still lower than the high of 21.5 percent recorded in September 2007, but the current total of 2.9 million families should give all of us, and especially President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her economic managers, serious pause.

One thing is clear: The latest SWS survey tells us that despite the flurry of publicity about different mitigation programs, the President’s popularity continues to plummet. Even in the Visayas, the island group traditionally considered her bailiwick, her political fortunes have fallen too. That must mean that, in the Visayas as elsewhere, people are seeing “through” the publicity, the whirlwind of presidential activity. After all, all the billions Ms Arroyo has spent is the people’s money, not hers.

Of course, another possibility exists. The reason her numbers plunged, even in the Visayas, was that when the survey was taken memories of the President’s failure to return to the country despite the catastrophic damage caused by typhoon “Frank” were still fresh and raw, like an open wound.

INHS60 in Ilokandia, Ilokoslovakia, and Ilokostan

Class ‘60 of INHS—Ilocos Norte High School—are gearing up for their golden anniversary this 2010, and a few classmates have been revving up their spirit’s enthusiasm and gunning down their logistical engines to make this happen.

Almost half of a centuple gathered in Las Vegas in April to eyeball each other, some having last laid eyes on one another almost half a century ago. Smaller pockets gathered in northern and southern California, Laoag and Manila, with the latter occasioning this writer’s reflection on the land of Diego and Gabriella Silang, of Ferdinand Marcos and 34 commercial banks in the region that handle foreign exchange remittances of a people in *diaspora* across the *globalis*.

We take liberties in recreating in our minds the images of the land of our origin, and if and when we are faithful to facts and are true to ourselves, we would not hesitate to see the complexity of any given *localis* in comparison to our favored if not altogether parochial picture of the geography of our beginnings.

Fort Ilocandia, the five-star hotel that sits astride the sand dunes facing the waters of the South China Seas, encapsulates the aspirations of the Gregorio Aglipay-led secular clergy who were excommunicated from communion with Rome at the end of the 19th century for furthering the then ridiculous notion to Europeans that the Indio may actually be of equal political footing as the Filipino *insulares* and *peninsulares*. Baroque in architecture, the Fort reflects the ethos of *gobierno civil* and prefigured the republicanism of later years, the patina of *zarzuela* democracy that overlaid the centralized authoritarianism of the native centurion, Fernando Marcos y Edralin.

Geographically, **Ilokandia** as an image is used most by the Province of Ilocos Norte but a case can be made for the term to appropriately designate the northern Luzon promontory from the Gulf of Lingayen in the west to the foothills of the Sierra Madre in the east, the corridors of the Caraballo in the south and the Isles of the *Ivatans* in Batanes and the *Babuyans* up north. This *regionalis* encompasses not just the highland Austro-Polynesians (my *Montañosa* colleagues will have to forgive my inclusiveness) but also the Indo-Malayan boat *barangayanic* people in the coasts and the plains, the *Samtoys* that traded with the Fujians of the Middle Kingdom before the galleons plied the Pacific.

Ilokandia as romanticized democracy is also the mythical domain of the industrious but definitely non-spend-

thrift Ilocano. It is said that of a typical family of five, the eldest would inherit the meager patch of real estate in exchange for making sure that the rest of the younger siblings would get their higher education and be productive professionals elsewhere. Ilocanos constitute the bulk of migrating professionals and contracted labor out of Pea Eye! Thus, it has come to pass that the first translation of laws and ordinances in Hawaii to its Filipino constituency is first in *Iloco* before anything else.

The 34 banks servicing Laoag’s Ilocano overseas remittances, is also the source of dismay for its bank officers because the accounts are maintained as savings, and the local population’s fiscal conservatism refuses to rely on commercial loans, thus, Ilocano savings are used elsewhere in the nation. But Ilocanos will borrow from public lending institutions out of the habit of entitlement, and the possibility that one can get away with minimal or even nil repayment. An \$18 million loan for gold mining drawn from PNB in the 70s never saw a penny of repayment. Other research and development loans were known to have been converted into grants, just so records are kept straight and clean! Would that we write only of exceptions but the rampant and rapacious abuse of the public till is a matter of public record, too true for comfort.

This socialized use of the public treasury is what I refer to as the balkanized States of **Ilokoslovakia**, its concomitant fractured loyalties among clannish and extended families that extend even beyond its boundaries to foreign land. Witness the splintering of the Ilocano mosaic into myriad of town and barrio associations in any concentration of Filipinos in the U.S.! In some cities, there are even more than one group of Laoagueños organized and functioning.

If it has not become obvious yet, my picture of Ilocandia is as much a microcosm of the whole Pinoy *nationalis* as it is particularly true of the geography under scrutiny. For not unlike the rest of the country, elections are the bane of its existence. With its people’s heightened sense of honor and prestige, albeit, often misguided, a losing group in any election tends to break off the organization, holds its own election and establishes a mirror image of the group they broke away from.



By JAIME VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Then there is the overt dependence on armed personnel to maintain order. This week alone while traveling on land between Laoag to Tuguegarao and further south through the Cagayan valley down to Manila, I encountered more checkpoints than I care to remember. Having been on the end of pointed M-16s by a full squad during the Martial Law years, I have a natural aversion to the imposed and coercive power of the gun.

Benign political dynasties are taken for granted. In

Ilocos Norte, I can count in less than the total units of my fingers and toes the prominent families that peopled and continue to dominate the political landscape since WWII. Children act as if the offices of their parents are their rightful inheritance, and conversely, parents bequeath their offices as if they are the legitimate heirloom of their children. When this deteriorates to ferocious warlordism and combusive family rivalries, we have the feudal structures of an **Ilocostan**, comparable to the other -Stans in the world, particularly those

that broke away from the tutelage of the former Soviet Union on the western side of the Urals, and also the emerging cousins of the Qins, the Zhous and the Hans in the Middle Kingdom.

Class INHS60 emerged into the heady days of JFK, Pope John XXIII, Macapagal and the US Immigration act of 1965, which saw a massive exodus of professionals to North America. Coming of age at such a fullness of time, one might ask the Class of itself, what has it wrought?

Naturally, intentionally, and synergistically, the Class looks forward to a 2010 **Celebration of Presence**, to name its journey in a way that it can humbly, equally and authentically uplift the being of its members whether they spent their time as dedicated *kutsers* and faithful housewives, or as a bemedalled Armed Forces officers or distinguished surgeons.

What has class ‘60 wrought with its lives? As would be of any group self-consciously assessing its journey, its locale context and situation, in this particular case, Ilokandia, Ilokoslovakia and Ilocostan, awaits their answer.

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune’s Opinion Section.

The house where Mabini died

Apolinario Mabini is one of my favorite heroes. If only he kept as much of his papers to match the 25 published volumes of Jose Rizal’s collected writings, I could have made another career just by reading and writing about him. Alas, he left us with only two volumes, often cited by the ignorant as “La Revolucion Filipina” because that is the title on the spine and cover, although it is but the title of his memoirs, which is only one document in the two-volume compilation of his newspaper articles and other writings. There is a separate volume on his edifying letters which, unlike Rizal’s letters, contain little or no personal information. Mabini must have been a serious and brooding intellectual, making it difficult to even imagine the so-called “Sublime Paralytic” standing and walking before he was afflicted by polio as a young man.

One of his brothers, in a prewar newspaper interview, narrated how Mabini tried to learn how to dance. Since he was too shy to physically hold a woman (or a man), he practiced his dance steps with a chair.

The good news is that the Mabini Shrine in Pandacan, Manila, the simple wooden house with a thatch roof where he died, has been moved from the inaccessible Presidential Security Group compound across the Pasig River from Malacañang to the Polytechnic University of the Philippines campus further down the river. The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority said it needed to widen the Pasig but the Mabini Shrine was getting in the way. When the move was implemented, some people complained, but we explained that the PSG site was not the original location of the house—it had been moved from across the river. I would like to believe that where this historic house goes, the land beneath it becomes part of the shrine.

Earlier, when I asked Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim if we could relocate Mabini’s house in the Arroceros Park, he immediately said yes, but people around him

convinced him otherwise. Manila’s loss is the Polytechnic University of the Philippines’ (PUP’s) gain. We are fortunate that PUP president Dr. Dante Guevarra welcomed the move. The house where Mabini died, now stands there as an inspiration for all the young people who should learn service and love of country.

Mabini was homegrown. He was not wealthy enough to study abroad, but he was in a true sense “ilustrado,” or enlightened. The house that has since become the shrine was actually the house of his brother.

Mabini was, next to Emilio Aguinaldo, the most powerful man in the First Republic. There were many opportunities and temptations to use that power for his own ends, but he refused. He wrote about Aguinaldo over a century ago but the advice he gives holds true for people in office today. The words are sharp but they ought to be remembered:

“To sum it up, the Revolution failed because it was badly led; because its leader won his post by reprehensible rather than meritorious acts; because instead of supporting the men most useful to the people, he made them useless out of jealousy.

Identifying the aggrandizement of the people with his own, he judged the worth of men not by their ability, character and patriotism but rather by their degree of friendship and kinship with him; and anxious to secure the readiness of his favorites to sacrifice themselves for him, he was tolerant even of their transgressions. Because he thus neglected the people, they forsook him; and forsaken by the people, he was bound to fall like a waxen idol melting in the heat of adversity. God grant that we do not forget such a terrible lesson, learnt at the cost of untold suffering.”



Looking Back
By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Mabini also said there was culture and virtue demanded by public office and that nobody should believe “that one can serve his country with honor and glory only from high office, and this is an error which is very dangerous to the common welfare; it is the principal cause of the civil wars which impoverish and exhaust many states and contributed greatly to the failure of the Revolution. Only he is truly a patriot who, whatever his post, high or low, tries to do the greatest possible good to his countrymen. A little good done in a humble position is a title to honor and glory, while it is a sign of negligence or incompetence when done in high office. True honor can be discerned in the simple manifestations of an upright and honest soul, not in brilliant pomp and ornament which scarcely serve to mask the deformities of the body. True honor is attained by teaching our minds to recognize truth, and training our hearts to love it. The recognition of truth shall lead us to the recognition of our duties and of justice, and by performing our duties and doing justice we shall be respected and honored, whatever our station in life. Let us never forget that we are on the first rung of our national life, and that

we are called upon to rise, and can go upward only on the ladder of virtue and heroism. Above all let us not forget that, if we do not grow, we shall have died without ever having been great, unable to reach maturity, which is proper of a degenerate race.”

Some misguided souls think Mabini was being prophetic, but in reality these relevant words only emphasize the sad fact that we haven’t changed much over the past century. History does not repeat itself, it’s we who repeat it.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu.

Samu't Sari



BIRTHDAY GIRL
Haidee Eugenio poses with friends during her recent birthday celebration.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



BIRTHDAY BOY
Dick Guintu poses with his wife Maricar and son Mac during his birthday celebration at the Fiesta Resort and Spa.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



LAS VEGAS NIGHT
Malou, Obet and Fe strike a pose during the Rotary Club of Saipan's Las Vegas night inside the Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort Saturday evening.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Ruby, Obet, Fe and Jaynie gather for a photo during the Rotary Club of Saipan's Las Vegas night.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Grace Velasco, left, and Liezel Artango pose for a photo during a recent event at Palms Resort Saipan. Velasco celebrated her birthday on Thursday. "Happy Birthday Grace!" Greetings come from Dan and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



MIFICPA HAPPENINGS
MIFICPA had a special gathering last Saturday, July 19, 2008 at the Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel, to celebrate after three of its members passed the US CPA board exam, to welcome back one of its advisers from a successful heart operation, and to hold a shower for one of the officers, who will soon be wed. The organization had dinner, games, karaoke and a discussion about the USCPA board, with an inspirational talk by the board passers. MIFICPA is planning to conduct a board review again and will provide latest review materials for interested and committed board takers. Wait for announcements of future activities and events. MIFICPA is always open for membership and welcomes associates. For more information, contact Irene Santiago at 287-7997 or Jho Doreza at 322-0997.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



MANAGAHA TRIP
Keanna and Miguel pose with their Ninong Obet during a recent trip to Managaha island.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



GUEST WORKERS' FORUM
Human Dignity Movement president Jerry Custodio talks to members of the Bangladeshi, Nepalese, Indian and Sri Lankan communities during the forum hosted by the Coalition of United Workers (NMI) at Kilili Beach Saturday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Beris family members Walden, Violy, and their son pose for a photo during the Coalition of United Workers (NMI) forum.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Youngstyle

Kids talk with singer Nick Lachey

By BROOKE MARTIN,
LOGAN MCGINN and
GARRETT ROEBKE
KIDSDAY STAFF REPORTERS
(C) 2007, NEWSDAY

We recently spoke with singer Nick Lachey at the Mattel showroom in Manhattan. The 34-year-old singer has signed on to host the upcoming ABC reality show "High School Musical: Summer Session," inspired by the Disney Channel phenomenon co-starring Zac Efron, Ashley Tisdale and Vanessa Hudgens. The program debuts July 20 and will air Sundays and Mondays for three weeks before settling into a Monday time slot. In honor of Hot Wheels' 40th anniversary, Nick introduced a one-of-a-kind Hot Wheels car set with almost 23 carats of diamonds and valued at \$140,000. It will be auctioned off later this year to benefit one of his favorite charities, Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Q: What was your favorite Hot Wheels car when you were a kid?

A: I had a taxi cab. Its paint got all chipped up. My brother (Drew) and I used to play and crash the cars into each other. I'd say that was my favorite.

Q: We read you have a new

CD coming out. Will you be touring for it?

A: Hopefully in the fall, I'll go on tour again. I like to sing live, it's fun.

Q: If you could sing a duet with anyone, living or not, who would you choose?

A: Have you ever heard of Sade? She hasn't made an album in a long time, but she's one of my favorite singers. I don't think she'd ever sing a duet with me, but if she did, I'd be very happy.

Q: What is your favorite song that you ever wrote?

A: "Resolution" (on his 2006 "What's Left of Me" CD). For me, it's the most special song I've ever written, if I had to pick just one.

Q: Would you like to perform on Broadway one day?

A: I was just talking about that with my brother. I would like to be on Broadway some day. (Drew) was in "Rent" a few years ago and did a great job. When I was growing up, in school I'd be in musicals. I've always wanted to play Tony in "West Side Story."

Q: When you were our age (10 and 11), who was your favorite singer?



Nick Lachey has signed on to host the upcoming ABC reality show "High School Musical: Summer Session."

A: Cyndi Lauper, Madonna and all these rock and roll bands like Twisted Sister, Motley Crue, Poison. Those are the musicians I remember most.

Q: Do you think you will ever tour again with your original band, 98 Degrees?

A: Maybe. We've all kind of gone on and done our own thing, but we've always kept that door open, if we've wanted to come back and do another album and tour, we could. I think one day we will.

Q: Do you have any plans to be on "Dancing With the Stars" like Drew?

A: I don't, and I tell you why,

because he already won it and he's a better dancer than me by a long shot. If I went on, I probably wouldn't win and I'd look silly.

Q: When you get together with Drew what do you like to do?

A: We play golf. When we were younger, we used to play a lot of basketball. Now we're getting older and our bodies don't work as good anymore, and golf's a safer game for us to play together.

Q: Do you collect anything?

A: I collect sports memorabilia. I have a room in my house with a bunch of autographed baseballs, footballs, football helmets, boxing gloves.

Q: Do you have any pets?

A: I do. I have a little dog, Wookiee, named after Chewbacca. I'm a huge "Star Wars" fan. When he was younger he kind of looked like a Wookiee. He's half Yorkie (Yorkshire terrier) and half poodle. Some people call them Yorkiepoos, but I prefer to call them Porkies because it's a little more manly. He's a cool dog.

...with 'American Idol' David Cook...

By REBECCA PRECHTL,
JULIA VENEZIA and
MICHELLE WESTPHAL
KIDSDAY STAFF REPORTERS
(C) 2007, NEWSDAY

We met David Cook, the 2008 winner of "American Idol." He told us all about being on the show and how it felt to win. David told us that he was very nervous singing in front of so many people every week. He also told us about never being in the bottom three.

David said, "It felt great never to be in the bottom three. My goal every week was not to take last. The fact that I was able to avoid that particular stressor in the show was kind of nice. I can't imagine how crazy that must have been. I was one of the lucky ones."

"I saw myself when I was a kid being one of three things: a baseball player, a ninja or—I always thought it was cool—the guys that got to stand and

ride on the back of the trash truck. Those were like my three dream jobs. The music thing started to hit about 16 or 17.

"When I got older, the sports thing wasn't progressing the way I would have hoped. Music kind of presented itself as something I could do. It made me that much cooler to my friends."

We are glad David won. We liked him on "American Idol," but we loved meeting him!



David Cook, the 2008 winner of "American Idol."

...and with actress Sophia Bush

By KERRY DELAY,
MOLLY MISKIEWICZ
and DENISE QUINTANILLA
KIDSDAY REPORTER

We interviewed actress Sophia Bush, who stars as Brooke Davis on the TV show "One Tree Hill," in Manhattan recently.

Q: What have been the most difficult scenes for you to film?

A: There was a scene with a lot of dialogue and it was really emotional. I think mentally those things are always very difficult. A three-page scene could take three hours to shoot. Even though on TV it is only a minute, you have to stay in one space for so long. There are camera setups and changes and you have to wait around. I think I can speak for all the kids on the show that the hurricane episode that we did in season three was the hardest. We all had to be in pairs in these scenes outside in the rain. When we were shooting, it was about 34 degrees in Wilmington (Del.) that week. They had massive rain towers dumping ice cold water on you and these huge fans to blow the wind around. You are standing in front of a fan that is 10-feet tall and it is so loud that you can't hear.

Q: Do you prefer to work in movies or television?

A: What I think is great is that I get to spend so much time working on a show and developing a



Sophia Bush stars as Brooke Davis on the TV show "One Tree Hill."

character and that person become a second sort of skin. You work so hard in every little scene in a movie. At this point in a series, you read something in a script and you know exactly how to play it. You don't have to work it out and figure it out. I like with a movie that you have the freedom to try out different things. So I like them both for different reasons.

Q: How many awards have you received?

A: The Teen Choice awards were really big this year. I won three of those. It was very overwhelming for me. I also got to go to the Vail (Colo.) Film Festival last year and received an award from them. That was very cool. It means a lot when people say, "Hey, we like what you are doing." That is why I

was so bowled over.

Q: What do you like about your character on "One Tree Hill"?

A: Over the years, there have been a lot of times I have looked over the script and I have told my producer, "I can't do this; this is ridiculous, I would never!" He would say, "Sophia, you are not Brooke. Just because you wouldn't do it doesn't mean she wouldn't." What I do like about her -- the things that I have had to portray her going through -- you always learn a lesson from Brooke. She always manages to pick herself up when she falls on her face. And I respect that. She is not all high and mighty and she doesn't act like she is always right. She has a lot of convictions and she is a really loyal friend. I appreciate how loyal she is. She doesn't take betrayal lightly and she doesn't think it is OK to lie to someone.

Q: If you could pick one guest star to go on "One Tree Hill," whom would it be?

A: Cate Blanchett is just my idol, but I have no idea what she would do on "One Tree Hill." Maybe I could dress her for an event or something. In my fantasy world, Brooke Davis would be sending Cate Blanchett down the red carpet at the Oscars. That would be fabulous.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT Daniel Duenas Babauta

March 16, 1954 – July 19, 2008

He was called to his eternal rest at the age of 54.



He is predeceased by:

Parents: †Dolores Palacios Duenas Babauta
†Dionicio Miyasaki Babauta

Maternal Grandparents: †Jose Villagomez Duenas
†Nieves Palacios Duenas

Paternal Grandparents: †Juan Cruz Babauta
†Maria Manibusan Miyasaki Babauta

Father in-law: †Lufo Navarro Quiambao

His memories will live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Remedios Quiambao Babauta
Children: Jally Marie B. & Anthony Chris DLC. Camacho
Jervy Miere Q. Babauta & Franny B. Attao (Franshia Jolie)
Lufo Don Q. Babauta & Bernice B. Cepeda (Jordan Daniel, Lufo Jr.)
Mother in-law: Irene Enriquez Quiambao

Brothers & Sisters: Merced B. & John S. Pangelinan
Edward B. & Thelma B. Babauta
Lydia B. & Noel Q. Taisacan
Thomas D. & Sylvia S. Babauta
Nobert D. & Kimiyo T. Babauta
Carmen B. & Diego DLG. Camacho
George D. & Eunice S. Babauta
Sandra B. & Franklin T. Sablan

Mass of intention and nightly rosary is being offered at 6:00 p.m. at San Roque Church.

On Wednesday, July 30, 2008 his body will leave Nustra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:30 a.m. and will be escorted to San Roque Church for viewing. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:00 a.m. and interment will follow immediately at Tanapag Cemetery.

Your presence and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Remedios Q. Babauta, Children & Grandchildren

Audio books that might keep you glued

By TRACY GRANT
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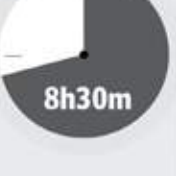






Will you and your family find yourself in the

car this summer? Perhaps on a drive to the beach or to relatives or to the mountains? That drive could take several hours or maybe days. Do you really want to spend that time

watching that same DVD for the 15th time? Or elbowing your little brother and getting yelled at by Mom?

Why not try enjoying a book as a family?

KidsPost offers some suggestions for family listening. For even more ideas, drop by your public library. Most branches have good selections of books on CD.

AUDIO BOOK	AUTHOR	NARRATOR	LENGTH	AGE	DESCRIPTION
	Eoin Colfer	John Keating	 1h20m	10+	Fans of Eoin Colfer's Artemis Fowl series are in for a treat with a very different kind of story. It's the epic tale of a boy named Conor Broekhart who was born aboard a hot-air balloon. Perhaps that explains his lifelong obsession with flight. It's an obsession that serves him well as his life takes him from being the best friend of a princess, to being labeled a traitor in the death of her father, the king, to being imprisoned on an island from which there is no escape. Unless, of course, he could fly!
	Dean Pitchford	Dean Pitchford	 4h30m	7+	All kids know about the "big one-oh." Your 10th birthday. Double digits. But Charley Maplewood isn't your typical kid. He's never had a birthday party and hasn't been to one in years, ever since a very unfortunate incident involving a pony. But this year, Charley really wants to celebrate. He wants friends and a cake and a "House of Horrors" theme. How he tries to pull it off is laugh-out-loud funny. But this story also has some sweet moments as Charley discovers the meaning of friendship and helps a lonely neighbor understand it, too.
	Patricia Reilly Giff	Staci Snell	 3h20m	9+	Who says boys and girls can't be friends? That's the premise of this tale of mystery and friendship set in a small town. Caroline is the new girl in town, afraid to get close to anyone because she knows she will be moving; she always moves. But that's before she meets Sam, a boy whose dark dreams have the number 11 woven into them. Caroline and Sam set out to solve the mystery of Sam's past. It's a story that boys and girls are bound to enjoy equally.
	Rodman Philbrick	Elden Henson	 3h15m	11+	This is the story of a friendship between a teenage giant named Maxwell and a tiny boy named Kevin. Maxwell has a secret past; Kevin has an uncertain future. But for one summer, with Kevin riding on Maxwell's shoulders, they become "Freak the Mighty," engaging in adventures straight out of Kevin's imagination. It's funny and suspenseful, but it's definitely for older kids because it raises some tough issues about good and bad parents, and life and death. It's bound to prompt lots of family conversation.
	James A. Owen	James Langton	 8h30m	10+	This incredibly clever tale starts off in London during World War I when three young strangers discover they are linked in their roles as caretakers of "The Imaginarium Geographica," an atlas of all lands that have ever existed in legend and fable. The three find themselves fighting to save two worlds: the one they know and the one that exists in the Geographica, filled with dragons and fairies. The payoff for listeners when the real identities of John, Jack and Charles are revealed is so knee-slapping and jaw-dropping that everyone in the car will be talking about it for a long time. (There's a sequel, "The Search for the Red Dragon.")
	Sally M. Walker	J.R. Horne	 2h30m	11+	This nonfiction book tells the tale of a little-known Civil War submarine, the ingenuity of its design and the search for answers to why it sank. (We're not spoiling anything here; the Hunley was nothing if not an incredibly unlucky ship.) There's real drama, but the story is best for kids who know a bit about ships and the history of the Civil War.
	E.L. Konigsburg	Rick Adamson, L.J. Ganser, Agnes Hermann, Aasif Mandvi, Barbara Rosenblat and Jeff Woodman	 4h50m	8+	This listening experience is different from most books on CD or tape because there is more than one reader. It's a bit like hearing a play, which is delightful. The story is about the four sixth-graders who make up the Academic Bowl team at Epiphany Middle School, but in the hands of Konigsburg (If you haven't read her "From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler," you really must!) it's really about how people's differences make the world interesting, what makes a team stronger and what makes friendships last a lifetime.
	M.T. Anderson	Marc Cashman	 3h	7+	What's an average, ordinary 12-year-old girl to do when she finds out that her dad works for an evil genius who plans to unleash an army of stilt-walking whales with laser-beam eyes on an unsuspecting world? Call on her best friends, technogeek Jasper Dash and zombie fighter Katie Mulligan, of course. Yes, this is incredibly silly, with no deeper message beyond the one that laughter and friendship are good things. Nothing wrong with that.

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BATTER UP! Hidden in the above frame is a famous proverb. You can find it by reading every other letter as you go around it clockwise. The trick is finding the right first letter.

Answer: Starting with the "L" in the left rail, "L" have big ears.

SIX OF ONE, HALF A DOZEN OF ANOTHER! You have 66 seconds to rearrange the numbers in the square so that the sum of any row, column or the two diagonals shall total 6.

1	2	3
1	2	3
1	2	3

Answer: Top row: 2, 3, 1. Middle row: 1, 2, 3. Bottom row: 3, 1, 2.

LINK-UPS! Here's a list of 12 short words, divided into two columns. Turn them into six longer words by linking them together. To do this, draw a line from one word in the left column to one word in the right.

1. ANTE	ION
2. FAT	RICE
3. EDIT	ABLE
4. CAP	KIN
5. DATE	HERS
6. BUMP	LOPE

Answers: Antelope, fathers, fathers, edition, caprice, caprice, bumpkin.

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TIME FOR ANGER MANAGEMENT!

Try to keep from blowing your top while identifying these "anger" words. Each one contains the word IRE. Using the following hints, see if you can cool things down in less than five minutes.

- Having dreadful consequences.
- To be stuck in the mud.
- When you're connected to the Internet.
- Part of many churches.
- Loud noisemakers.
- To strive toward an end.
- Seen on summer evenings.
- To have refereed.

Answers: 1. Dire. 2. Mire. 3. Wire. 4. Spire. 5. Sirens. 6. Aspire. 7. Firefly. 8. Umpire.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

Red pepper spray can deter cats

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: In a recent column, you described a cat that became extremely ill after ingesting a lily plant. You suggested distracting a cat from poisonous plants with a nearby tray of catnip, or a favorite toy. I have a really great tip for discouraging cats—and most other critters—from chewing on plants, furniture or whatever you don't want them to chew on.

Try mixing a few teaspoons of ground red pepper in a spray bottle full of water, then spray the item you want the cat to leave alone. Saturate the item and leave it to dry. This also works for outdoor plants and flowers to keep wild critters away from them. The smell alone repels most animals. Just make sure not to touch your eyes after applying!

Also, thank you for the Cat Fanciers' Association Web site, where you can find the list of plants dangerous to cats. —Stephanie L., Lawrenceburg, Ky.



to cats make sure they are lifted well out of the reach of their pet. I'll even go so far as to say that no plants from the lily family should be in the home, period. No repellent is 100 percent effective, especially from a determined cat.

For those who missed the link to the Cat Fanciers' Association Web site, here it is again so that you can review the list of poisonous plants: www.cfainc.org/articles/plants.html.

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paws Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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DEAR STEPHANIE: You're welcome, and thanks for the tip! I would also recommend that cat owners who have plants in their homes that are dangerous

Play passport book for preschoolers

When you hit the road this summer, your preschooler will enjoy putting "play pieces" on colorful pages of his own passport book to become familiar with who and what he will see on the trip. Upon arrival at each location, validate a page ... for instance, Grandma could sign and date "her" page when he arrives.

HERE'S WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- An empty cardboard food box approximately 6 inches by 8 inches, such as a Cream of Wheat or Minute Rice box
- Clear plastic or tin mint box (approximately 4 inches by 2 1/2 inches)
- Construction paper
- Self-sticking Velcro dots
- Markers, crayons
- Glue
- Scissors, ruler and hole punch
- Pipe cleaners
- Travel brochures, and small photos of your child and people you will visit.

HERE'S THE FUN:

- Repurpose the box into the spine and front and back cover of the book. An adult should cut off the two long side panels and the top of the box. Leave the bottom of the box intact to become the spine.
- Lay the book cover in front of you with the spine to the left.

Measure in to the center of the front, 4 1/2 inches from the spine. Draw a vertical line as a guide for cutting off the right side of the front cover. You have a book on the left and extra space on the right side of the back cover, where you may glue the box for storing play pieces.



3. Punch two holes in the spine, 1-inch from the top and bottom edges. Cut paper to fit inside, adding an extra inch to allow the paper to be folded and fit into the spine.

Decorate each page with a drawing or cutouts from travel brochures of a place you will visit during your trip. Punch holes in the pages to match up with holes in the spine. Pull a pipe cleaner through the holes in the pages and book spine, and twist to secure the pages.

4. For each page, create a "play piece" small enough to store in the small box, such as a cutout photo of Grandma or the Statue of Liberty. Stick a Velcro dot on the back of each piece. Place the corresponding Velcro dot by the image that corresponds with the play piece. For example, your child would eventually attach Grandma's photo to the page with a drawing of her house.

Glue your child's picture on the inside cover, and add name, date and place of birth.

Paint and decorate the cover to resemble a real passport.

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By SAMANTHA WEAVER

If you're thinking of redecorating your child's room, you might want to keep this in mind: Studies show that the color pink has a soothing effect on children; blue lowers their blood pressure and increases attentiveness; and yellow excites and cheers kids. Avoid red if at all possible; it has been shown to raise children's blood pressure, respiration and heart rate as well as brain and muscle activity.

The brand name Nike isn't just a made-up moniker. It comes from Greek mythology, in which Nike was the winged goddess of victory.

It's been reported that the last words of 19th-century American author, essayist, biographer and historian Washington Irving were, "Well, I must arrange my pillows for another night. When will this end?"

If you're planning a trip to New York City this September, you should consider stopping by Wigstock, the country's largest festival celebrating the fake 'do. If you can't make the road trip, don't worry; you can check out the festivities from the comfort of your own home. Just rent "Wigstock: The Movie," a documentary of the event that was made in the mid-1990s.

Golfers beware: Don't chew on the tees. One golfer who was in the habit of gnawing while he played overdosed on pesticides after playing 36 holes in one day.

All species of dog have a pink tongue -- except one. Chows' tongues are black.

The longest word in the English language that can be typed using only one hand is "stewardesses."

Studies conducted in office environments show that women's desks have, on average, four times more germs than men's desks do.

Thought for the Day: "There is wisdom in turning as often as possible from the familiar to the unfamiliar: it keeps the mind nimble, it kills prejudice, and it fosters humor." -- George Santayana

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MAGIC MAZE • SHADES OF GRAY

P Y I E K C A L B G D B Y W T
R P A M P K H U Y S I Y F D B
Y W U R S U Q A A O A M K E I
E F D B G Z A B R R W X W P U
S R Q O N S L T G C G H L U J
H F T M D E Y E E C O D I A A
Y W V S O T P V T L S A L T R
Q M E D I U M T A U P E L E E
P N L K A B S I L D H R V L F
F E C T C I N E S R A I U A B
Z Y W V U S R R E V L I S P Q

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Arsenic	Feldgrau	Pale taupe	Slate gray
Bistre	Liver	Purple taupe	Taupe gray
Charcoal	Medium taupe	Sable	White
Davy's gray	Mouse	Silver	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	÷		+		14
-		+		-	
	+		÷		3
x		÷		x	
	+		÷		3
9		3		4	

1 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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MAGIC MAZE ANSWER

SHADES OF GRAY

GO FIGURE ANSWER

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Life & Style

Bale asks for privacy in assault allegations

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—Batman star Christian Bale asked for privacy Thursday in his first comments since allegations he assaulted his mother and sister at a London hotel, saying the incident was personal.

The Welsh-born actor brushed off questions about the alleged family dispute, saying he preferred to focus on the blockbuster movie "The Dark Knight," which had its premiere in Spain on Wednesday.

"It's a deeply personal matter," Bale told The Associated Press at a news conference at a luxury hotel in Barcelona. "I would ask you to respect my privacy in the matter."

The 34-year-old actor spent four hours talking to British police Tuesday following allegations he assaulted his mother and one of his three sisters in his suite at London's Dorchester Hotel two days earlier. He was released on bail, but not charged.

Bale has said through his lawyers that the assault allegations were false.

British media reported that Bale's mother and sister told police he assaulted them at the hotel a day before attending the European premiere of "The Dark Knight." The Sun newspaper said the complaint was filed by sister Sharon Bale and mother Jenny Bale.

The drama unfolded even as the movie broke records and was met with critical acclaim. It set a box-office record with \$158.4 million during its opening weekend in the U.S. last week, and is expected to do well in Europe.

The film, which stars Bale as Batman and the late Heath Ledger as the superhero's nemesis The Joker, opened in Barcelona at a glittery premiere Wednesday night. Thousands of fans lined the red carpet for a peek at the stars.

Bale paid tribute to Ledger, calling his depiction of The Joker one of the film's triumphs.

"It was an iconic portrayal of The Joker," Bale said, adding Ledger's character had embodied "an agent of chaos."

Bale said he tried to add an edge to his portrayal of Batman as well, inspired by the superhero's complex and mysterious character.

"The bat is not an angelic creature," he said, smiling.

The movie is expected to do well in Spain thanks in part to the publicity that Bale's reported arrest and Ledger's untimely death in January had spawned, press reports said.

Bale first made a splash as the child star of Steven Spielberg's "Empire of the Sun" in 1987. His screen credits also include "American Psycho," "The Machinist" and "Batman Begins."



Bale

'Twilight' fans camp out for a peek (and a scream)

SAN DIEGO (AP)—If you haven't heard of "Twilight," ask a teenager. The best-selling young-adult book isn't bound for the big screen until December, but fan frenzy for the film practically took over Comic-Con on Thursday.

Hundreds of teens camped overnight outside the San Diego Convention Center for a chance to see early footage of the film and get a glimpse at the cast of heartthrobs set to bring the teen-vampire tale to life.

"You don't understand it until you've read it," said 17-year-old Syena Sarrafpour. "The cast of amazing people—they're hot—obviously adds to the excitement."

She and her friends wore homemade T-shirts touting their love for Edward, the vampire hero who falls in love with a human girl.

"It's a really good love story that has fantasy," said Emma Quan, 18. "It's like 'Harry Potter' plus romance plus good-looking people."

Thousands of fans - many in homemade shirts proclaiming their preference for Edward or his love-rival, Jacob - filled the convention's largest exhibition hall, drowning out the cast introductions with enthusiastic, high-pitched screams.

"Oh my God, Robert Pattinson is so hot," said 17-year-old Jenna Barazsu. "I love him. He's perfect for Edward."

Pattinson, 22, said he was overwhelmed by the attention the role has brought him.

"It's kind of terrifying in a lot of ways," he said in an interview. "I still can't really come to terms with it... As soon as one person started to recognize me, literally now I'm just freaking out the whole time."

The British actor previously appeared as the doomed Cedric Diggory in "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" and "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix."

But it wasn't just the boys who gen-



AP

In this Friday, Nov. 18, 2005 file photo, actor Robert Pattinson appears in Tokyo during a press conference for the film "Twilight".

erated buzz. Fans were just as excited to see Kristen Stewart, who plays the story's heroine, Bella Swan.

"Everyone wants to be Bella," said Sarrafpour. "And (author) Stephenie Meyer wrote Edward as like the perfect guy."

Meyer, who followed up "Twilight" with three other best-sellers, said her main character, a "typical teen," is key to the series' appeal.

"There are so many girls out there who do not know kung fu, and if a guy jumps in the alley they're not going to turn around with a roundhouse kick," Meyer said. "There's a lot of people who are just quieter and aren't having the Prada lifestyle and going to a special school in New York where everyone's rich and fabulous. There's normal people out there and I think that's one of the reasons Bella has become so popular."

"Twilight," a Summit Entertainment release, is slated for release Dec. 12.



AP

In this Dec. 25, 1985 file photo, four veteran actresses, from left, Estelle Getty, Rue McClanahan, Bea Arthur and Betty White, from the television series "The Golden Girls" are shown during a break in taping in Hollywood.

Estelle Getty remembered as funny, feisty, frugal

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Estelle Getty always liked a bargain.

Despite her sitcom success with "The Golden Girls," son Carl Gettleman told friends and family gathered at a private memorial service Thursday that his mother always chose frugal over flashy. He recounted a time when his Emmy-winning mother's Toyota Tercel was towed out of her assigned parking space at "The Golden Girls" production lot because security thought someone else had parked there.

"The Great Depression left an indelible impression on mom," Gettleman said.

Getty, who suffered from advanced dementia, died Tuesday at her Hollywood Boulevard home. She was 84.

The diminutive actress was best known for her role as wisecracking

Sophia Petrillo on "The Golden Girls," which ran from 1985 to 1992 on NBC. When she auditioned for the show, Getty was appearing on stage as the carping Jewish mother in Harvey Fierstein's play "Torch Song Trilogy" in Hollywood.

After her success in "The Golden Girls," other roles came her way. She played Cher's mother in "Mask," Sylvester Stallone's in "Stop or My Mom Will Shoot" and Barry Manilow's in the TV film "Copacabana." She also played the feisty department store owner in "Mannequin" and voiced the character Grandma Estelle in "Stuart Little" on the big screen.

"While the biographies of some celebrities are suffused with torrid love affairs, bouts of alcoholism and/

or drug abuse, lavish lifestyles, epic battles with studio heads and co-stars, what had made mom so universally relatable is that she lived a life that people could completely identify with," said Gettleman. "You can see it in the family photographs."

Other speakers at the funeral included Getty's other son Barry, her longtime assistant Richard and "Golden Girls" executive producer Tony Thomas. Her "Golden Girls" co-stars Bea Arthur, Rue McClanahan and Betty White were not in attendance at the intimate service inside the chapel at the Hollywood Forever Cemetery in Los Angeles.

"We loved her dearly," said Thomas. "She made the so-so jokes good, the good jokes great and the great jokes out of this world."

Russell Brand to host the MTV Video Music Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—MTV is staking its brand on a lesser-known one: Russell Brand.

The British actor and comedian will host this year's Video Music Awards, set to air live from Paramount Pictures Studios in Los Angeles on Sept. 7, MTV told The Associated Press on Thursday.

Brand recently co-starred in the Judd Apatow-produced comedy "Forgetting Sarah Marshall" and the Reese Witherspoon-produced fairy tale "Penelope." He is currently filming the Adam Sandler comedy "Bedtime Stories," slated for release later this year.

Brand told the AP that he hadn't started thinking about how he would

approach the assignment—not that there's much planning to be done for the infamously anything-goes show.

"I've just been invited to do it," Brand said in a telephone interview from London. "It'll be good to preside over what is sure to be only vaguely coordinated televised insanity."

Not that chaos or improv a problem for the 33-year-old comedian.

"That's how I've made my name in this country: Flying very much by the seat - and the crotch - of my pants."

MTV hired Brand to be a VJ on its Britain-based show "Dance Floor Chart" after catching his comedy act in Edinburgh, Scotland. He also hosted a call-in show called MTV Select.

Rapper DMX pleads not guilty to felony charges

PHOENIX(AP)—DMXrapped for reporters outside a Phoenix courtroom Thursday after pleading not guilty to felony charges of theft and identity theft.

Then he plugged an album. Authorities allege the 37-year-old rapper, whose real name is Earl Simmons, gave the name "Troy Jones" and an incorrect Social Security number to a Scottsdale hospital in April to avoid paying \$7,500 in medical expenses.

When reporters asked for comment following the hearing

in Maricopa County Superior Court, Simmons rapped: "If and when you ever fall down, get back up. ... Stand for something or fall for everything. Wait for the right pitch, you'll miss every swing."

His lawyer, Charles Kozelka, then pulled him away as Simmons urged reporters to look for his next album. He has a hip-hop album, "Walk With Me Now," slated for release Oct. 14

and a gospel album, "You'll Fly With Me Later," in the works.

The rapper's record label, Bodog Music, is sticking by its artist.

"We wouldn't work with DMX period if we didn't believe he was just a victim of circumstance," said Peter Karroll, president of Bodog. "The sheriff in Phoenix is definitely targeting him. It's unbelievable."

The theft and identity theft



DMX



AP

In this Nov. 19, 2007 file photo, Actress Amy Adams makes an appearance at MTV's Studios in Times Square for MTV's "Total Request Live," in New York.

Amy Adams engaged to acting-class sweetie

NEW YORK (AP)—Now Amy Adams' love life is "Enchanted," too. The Oscar-nominated Adams is engaged to fellow actor Darren Legallo, her publicist, Cari Ross, confirmed Thursday. Ross did not immediately provide further details.

The couple reportedly met in acting class in 2001, and plan to tie the knot next year.

Adams, 33, received an Oscar nomination for her supporting role in the 2005 family drama "Junebug." She had a breakout role as a Disney-style princess in the 2007 romantic comedy "Enchanted," and has appeared in such films as "Charlie Wilson's War," "Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby" and "Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day."

'Wallace & Gromit' to become episodic video game

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Wallace & Gromit" are going on a new adventure.

Telltale Games is creating an episodic video game based on Aardman Animations' Oscar-winning animated film series titled "Wallace & Gromit's Grand Adventures." The popular stop-motion clay animated franchise stars the cheese-loving, hair-brained inventor Wallace (voiced by Peter Sallis) and his long-suffering loyal pooch, Gromit.

"We're certainly going for the clay look with this," Telltale Games CEO Dan Connors told The Associated Press. "Clay presents a challenge if you really get into the detail of it. For example, adding fingerprints in a medium where there aren't any is one of the discussions of how far we should go with the game's detail."

"Grand Adventures" will allow gamers to play as both Wal-

lace and Gromit, engaging in zany entrepreneurial schemes and tinkering with kooky contraptions. Connors said "Grand Adventures" will feature more physical and situation-based comedy and would likely follow the distribution model of Telltale's episodic video game series "Sam & Max."

Aardman Animations has produced three Academy Award-winning "Wallace & Gromit" animated short films as well as the full-length feature film "The Curse of The Were-Rabbit," which won an animated film Oscar in 2006. "A Matter of Loaf and Death," a fourth animated short starring the twosome, is currently in production.

The characters previously appeared in the standalone games "Cracking Contraptions," "Project Zoo" and "Curse of The Were-Rabbit."



AP

This image provided by Telltale Inc. shows a scene from the "Wallace & Gromit's Grand Adventure" game.

Decorum in doctor's office seems to be in short supply

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I work in a medical office and would like your help in asking patients when entering the clinic to please respect the privacy of the people ahead of them and not peer over their shoulders when they sign in. It is not only rude, but also a violation of HIPAA privacy laws.

Another problem—and forgive me, because this is gross—is that when we tell a patient the amount of the co-pay, she will reach into her bra and pull out WET cash and expect us to take it from her! It literally makes me sick, and I'd rather not touch it, but at the same time, customer service is No. 1 in our clinic and with me, too, so I take it and then spend the rest of the day wanting to vomit.

SICK IN THE DR.'S OFFICE

DEAR SICK: You are right; the behavior you have described is rude. The same thing happens when customers swipe their debit/credit cards in the checkout line at the supermarket, and you should handle it the way many checkers do. Say to the patient who is second in line, "Please stand back." You don't have to be nasty, just firm.

As to those women (I assume it's women) who treat their brassiere cups like breast pockets, you have two choices. Either slip on a pair of latex gloves when you take the cash, or whip out the hand sanitizer afterward. That's what it's for.

■■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I need help for my friend "Edie." Her mother died of cancer two years ago, and she's still grieving. She has her mother's obituary taped on the wall in front of her computer at work. Every conversation with her includes references to how her mom acted, cooked, worked, etc.

Edie's father has a new female friend, which upsets Edie to no end. Her 4-year-old called the new girlfriend "Maw-Maw" and Edie scolded him saying, "That is NOT your Maw-Maw, and she'll never BE your Maw-Maw!"

Abby, I don't think the little boy even remembers his grandma. He was only 2 when she died. Edie wears her mother's clothes and still hasn't cleaned out her mom's home. Edie's dad is scared to for fear of upsetting her.

What, as a friend, can I do to help her?

STANDING BY IN KENTUCKY

DEAR STANDING BY: While grieving is an individual process, it appears that your friend has become stuck. It would be a kindness to tell her that you know she is hurting, and to suggest that she consult a grief counselor or psycho-therapist to help lessen her obvious pain.

■■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I was invited to an elegant wedding, and by the time dinner was served, I was stuffed because I pigged out on the hors d'oeuvres. At the end of dinner, I asked for a doggy bag to take home my huge untouched filet mignon. Was this a faux pas?

HATES TO BE WASTEFUL, WABAN, MASS.

DEAR HATES TO BE WASTEFUL: Absolutely not. It's done all the time, and you have done nothing for which you have to apologize. However, let this be a lesson to you. Next time, save room for the main course.

■■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I want to visit my son, whom I have not seen or heard from in three years. Even though I have phoned and have written to him, I have gotten no reply. He was angry at me the last time we spoke. Should I make a surprise visit when I'm in his city?

MOM IN THE SOUTHWEST

DEAR MOM: Unless you're willing to be the one getting the surprise, I don't recommend it.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Country singer Cagle not guilty of domestic charge

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Country singer Chris Cagle has been found not guilty of domestic violence after his girlfriend refused to testify against him. Cagle and Jennifer Tant were both charged with domestic violence after police said they got into a drunken fight May 28. Tant invoked her Fifth Amendment right not to incriminate herself Thursday in Davidson County General Sessions Court. Her case was dismissed after prosecutors chose not to go forward. Cagle, 39, declined to comment after the verdict. His attorney, Bill Ramsey, said in a

statement that the charge never should have been brought. Cagle is still scheduled to stand trial Sept. 23 in Tucson, Ariz., on a misdemeanor assault charge. He is accused of striking a man after a benefit concert.

Foxy Brown, Lil' Kim sued over undelivered books

NEW YORK (AP)—A New York publisher is suing Foxy Brown and Lil' Kim, saying they were paid advances for books they never delivered. Simon & Schuster Inc. says Brown was paid \$75,000 in 2005 to deliver an autobiography called "Broken Silence" by February 2006; and Lil' Kim was paid \$40,000 in

2003 for a novel due June 2004. The publisher wants its money back through the two lawsuits filed Thursday. After signing the deals, both women were imprisoned for several months. Lil' Kim went to prison in 2005 for lying about a shooting, and Brown in 2007 for violating probation arising from a fight with two manicurists. Brown's attorney says she hasn't seen the lawsuit and can't comment. Lil' Kim's attorney didn't immediately return a call Thursday.

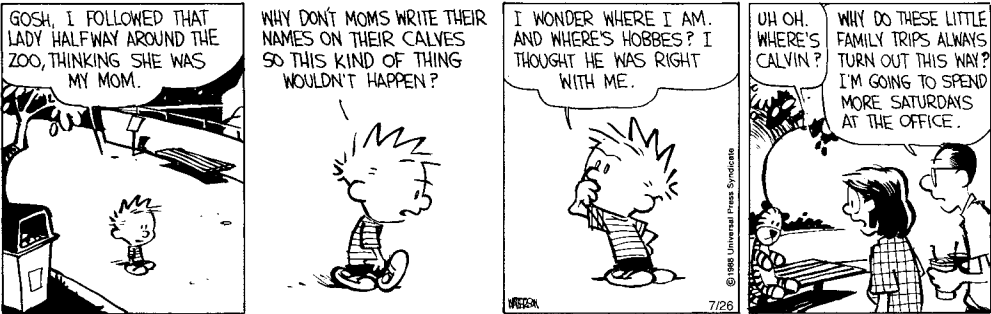
Demand extends 'Little House' musical run 2 weeks

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—They're packing the "Little

House" in Minneapolis. A new musical version of "Little House on the Prairie" was extended two weeks because of demand, the Guthrie Theater said. It stars Melissa Gilbert as the mother of the character she played on the TV series. The production originally was scheduled to close Oct. 5, but is now slated through Oct. 19. The musical is based on the "Little House" books of Laura Ingalls Wilder. Gilbert, who played the title character on the television series, takes the stage as Caroline Ingalls - perhaps better known as Karen Grassle's "Ma." The added tickets range from \$34 to \$65 and go on sale Friday. Opening night is August 15.

Pastimes

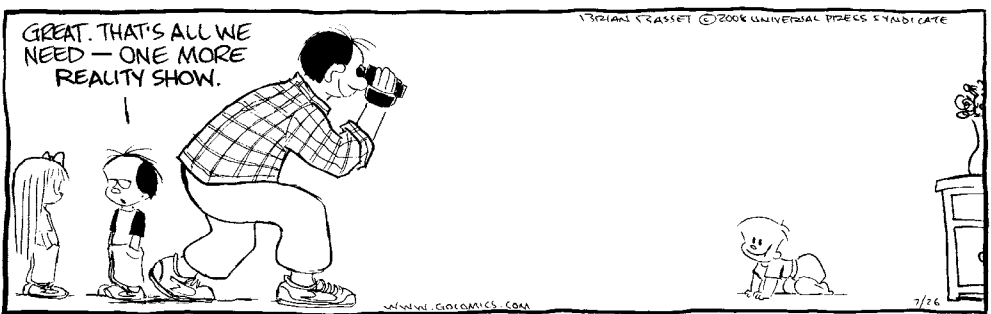
Calvin and Hobbes



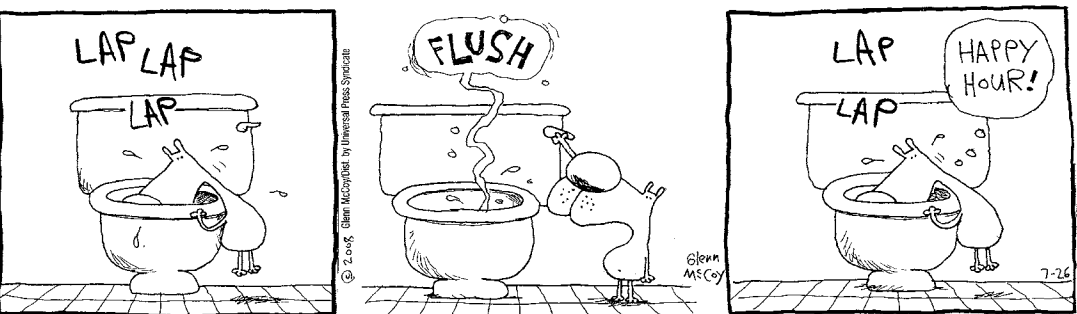
Garfield®



Adam@home



The Duplex



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Having a cupola

6 Football refs

12 Bullring figure

13 East

14 Bandit

15 Elaborately decorated

16 Roughly

17 Address preceder

19 Op. — (where men-tioned)

20 Trawler gear

22 Web address part

24 Royal sleep thwarter?

27 Attend

29 Carnival attraction

32 Elvis song

35 Marty Robbins' "El —"

36 Undraped

DOWN

1 Gloomy

2 Scraps

3 Casaba, e.g.

4 Tide

5 Petula

6 Go

7 Messed up

8 Crib

9 Pertaining to a response

10 Con

11 Dele

12 Exces-sively

18 Daze

21 Swelled head

23 Raw rock

24 Spot on

25 H

26 Booth, for one

28 Enacted by decree

30 Lair

31 Prior to

33 "Smoking or —?"

34 Beak

39 Doubled

41 From then on

42 Mischie-vous group

43 Links warning

45 Maple genus

47 Con game

48 Pinches

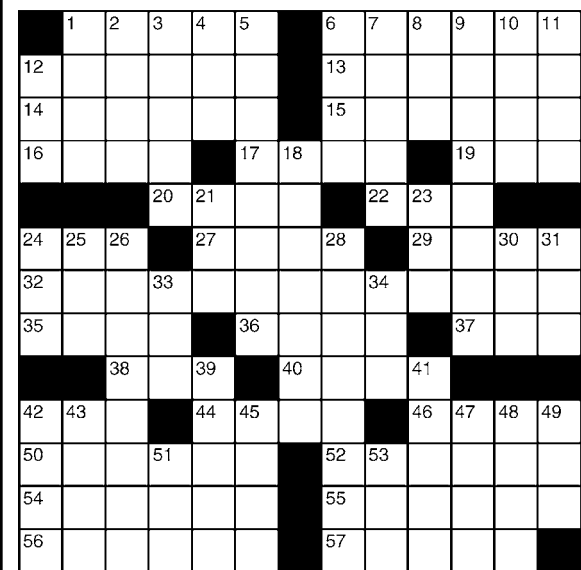
49 Stocking stuffer?

51 "Then what hap-pened?"

53 Manipu-late

Solution time: 27 mins.

Yesterdays answer 7-26



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kate Beckinsale, 35; Sandra Bullock, 44; Kevin Spacey, 49; Helen Mirren, 63

Happy Birthday: This can be a very industrious year for you if you focus on what you are trying to accomplish. You don't have to go too big to be successful; take steps in a better direction. Don't be afraid of change. Rid yourself of dead weight and negative people and see how fast you advance. Your numbers are 7, 18, 23, 28, 37, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Pay extra attention to the ones you love most. Love is on the rise and meaningful progress can be made within relationships. New love, current love or past loves can all be dealt with through resolution and revitalization. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't let anyone bully you into doing something you don't want to do. A serious look at your personal situation will help you resolve on-going issues, if you refuse to give in. Enough is enough —it's time to put you first. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't be left short because someone is always borrowing from you. A money issue can be resolved with a debt paid, an investment made or even a gift or winning coming your way. Offer suggestions, not your hard-earned cash. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Open your mind to suggestions that could lead to an interesting partnership with someone who thinks like you. Take part in something you believe in and all sorts of interesting connections will be made. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't overbook your time. Before making commitments, check your schedule to see if you can offer enough time to do a good job. Not following through with what you say will counteract what you've worked so hard to build. Financial loss will occur if you promise too much for too little. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take a trip down memory lane. Visit old friends and places. Some old familiar feelings will surface, giving rise to important answers. Your personal life is about to change for the better. Open your heart and mind. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You may overreact to comments made by someone with experience and the wisdom to see what you may be overlooking. A chance to make some overdue changes at home must be put into play for your own good. Don't let these plans cost you too much. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Problems will arise if you try to deal with personal matters. Someone you have trusted in the past may be withholding information for fear of hurting your feelings. Arguments are apparent but it's important to get things out in the open. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't go into debt when you don't have to. You can have fun, enjoy love, be totally entertained and still stick to a budget. Risks could lead to a dangerous situation. Caution is a must. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Home improvement projects and family gatherings should be organized. Partnerships

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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that need adjustments can be altered through talks. Focus on affairs of the heart and making things right. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Do a little soul-searching and you will remember some of your past regrets. You can make it up today to anyone you have disappointed—take positive action and make amends. Admitting you were wrong can be a very cleansing experience. **

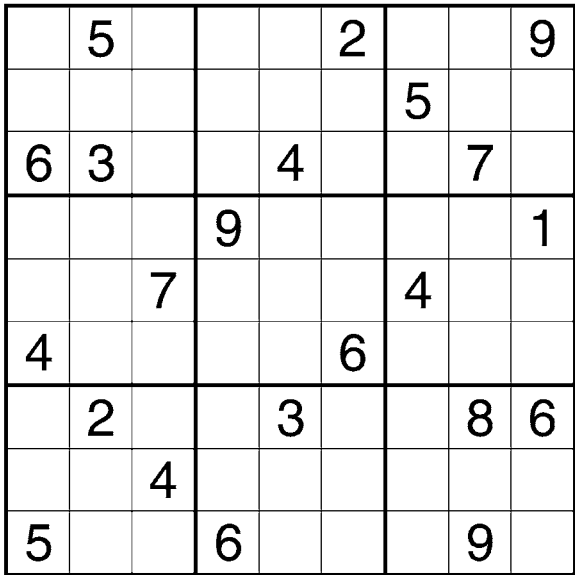
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take charge and put in extra hours on a worthwhile project. It will pay off in the connections you make and the confidence it brings you. Your enthusiasm and ability to get things done will lead to advancement. ****

Birthday Baby: You are charismatic, engaging, hardworking, determined and practical. You are generous and emotionally drawn to challenging people.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

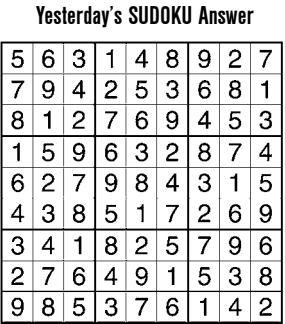
Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 7/26

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.



Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 7/25

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PSYCHOKINETIC EFFECTS Solution: 9 letters



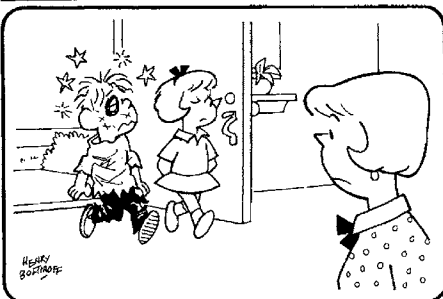
© 2008 Universal Press Syndicate www.wonderword.com 7/26

Activate, Amplify, Analysis, Atmosphere, Computer, Conditions, Convert, Diagrams, Distant, Electrical, Emit, Enhanced, Event, Expert, Extraordinary, Feel, Fields, Focus, Force, Generate, Level, Matter, Mental, Mind, Phenomena, Precognition, Random, Release, Signal, Sleep, Spiritual, State, Studies, Telepathy, Travel

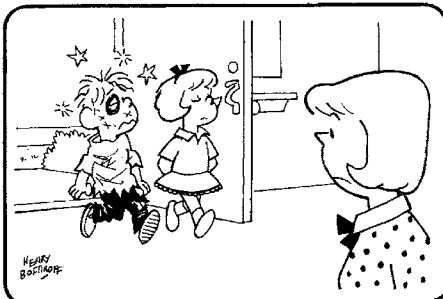
Yesterday's Answer: Jazzercise We intend to your request: TREASURY #6 is the first ever Wonderword book containing only 20 x 20 puzzles, with 75 of these large puzzles. To order, send check or money order for \$16.95 each plus \$3.25 p&h (\$14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, \$1.50 p&h for each additional volume. To Wonderword, Universal Press Syndicate, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free 1-800-255-6734, ext. 6688. Order online at upuzzles.com

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIKOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Mom's hair is longer. 2. Girl's dress has ruffles. 3. Indoor plant is missing. 4. Door handle is higher. 5. Dress polka dots are black. 6. Fewer stars around boy's head.

Wishing Well®

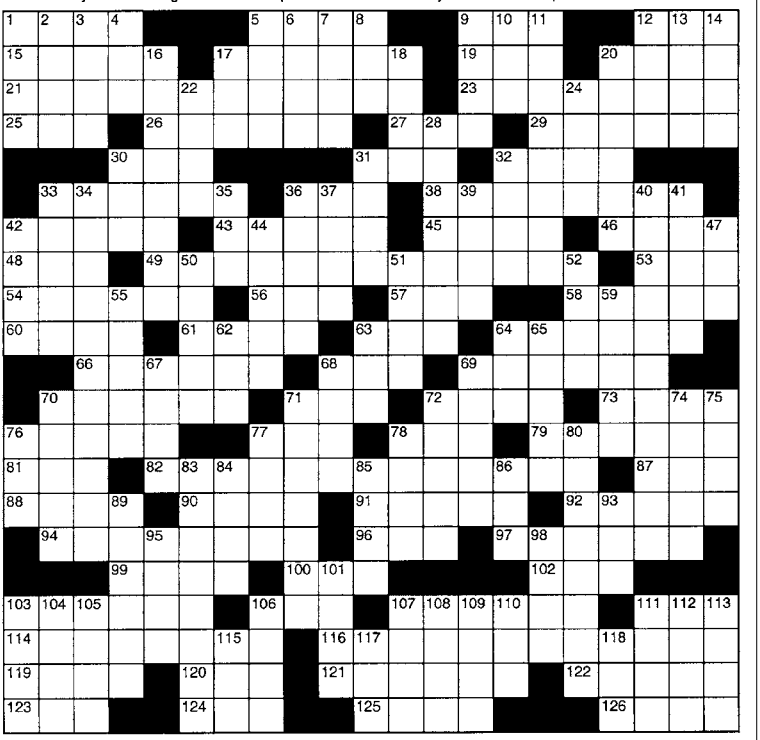
7	6	5	6	3	6	7	6	2	3	4	2	4
D	A	Y	P	A	R	O	N	S	Y	O	O	
2	6	5	3	7	2	6	5	6	2	7	6	4
M	F	O	W	T	O	I	U	T	R	H	A	U
6	7	3	6	7	4	2	5	6	2	4	5	4
B	E	E	L	B	H	E	A	E	T	E	I	E
2	6	7	5	6	7	4	7	4	2	7	5	7
E	B	E	D	U	S	D	T	A	A	Y	E	O
5	4	3	4	6	4	6	2	4	6	2	6	4
L	D	E	V	S	I	I	R	C	N	S	E	E
6	7	8	7	3	6	5	8	6	8	6	7	3
S	U	B	C	T	S	D	E	T	T	R	A	L
5	3	7	6	5	3	6	3	5	8	5	8	8
E	I	N	I	R	F	P	E	L	I	Y	D	Y

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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Super Crossword PUNBLICATIONS

ACROSS	53 — jongs	94 Broadway arrangement	3 Crowburst?	40 Wholesome biker's publication?	76 The Kit — Club
1 Move like a mouse	54 Hymns of praise	96 Kennel feature	5 Pipe part	41 Carpenter or printing shade	77 In addition
5 Neighbor of Java	56 Viper creature	97 Kitten gear?	6 Turkish title	42 Monsieur Le Pew feature	78 Stocking
9 —	58 Digression	99 Petite pie	7 Den	43 Patriot Samuel	80 Anisy
12 Corpulent	60 Gouda alternative	100 Sprite	8 "Newhart" setting	44 Patriot Samuel	81 Opera feature
15 Early computer	61 — River, NJ	102 —	9 Holstein's home	47 "Evita" character	84 Future of the present
17 TV's "Heroes"	63 Tenor Peerce	103 Classify	10 Flagon filler	50 — Park, CO	85 Medieval menial
19 Campbell of UB40	64 Like Simon Austin	106 Maestro de Waart	11 Patois	51 Uninteresting	86 — de plume
20 Poorly	66 Groovy	107 "Electric" — ("83 hit)	12 Beat	52 Subdue	89 One of the Jacksons
21 Restaurant critic's zine?	68 Pugilistic poke	111 To and —	13 Felipe, Jesus, or Matty	53 Simba	93 Gobbled up
23 Librarian's journal?	69 Stephen King book	114 Sailor's reading?	14 Little one	55 Pavarotti's love	95 Apparel
25 Explosive initials	70 Mutiny	116 Depression era	16 South	59 Bit of parsley	98 Debtors' letters
26 Column	72 — fide	119 Icelandic epic	17 Cholesterol letters	62 Northwestern st.	101 Stud site
27 Max — Sydow	73 Byzantine	120 Capek play	18 Goller Ballesteros	63 Mouth piece?	104 Cabbage concoction
29 Bunch of ballplayers	76 Plants parts	121 Bring to light	20 Nigerian city	64 Anger or envy	105 Philosopher
30 Solidify	77 Ram's ma'am	122 Goatish gambler	22 "Aida" river	65 Composer Albeniz	106 Bronte heroine
31 Weber's "Freischutz"	78 Directional suffix	123 Have unpaid bills	24 Forest ruminant	67 Slender trace	107 Where to find an onager
32 Prepared to drive	79 Sock style	124 "Hiver" opposite	28 Ciceronian speech	68 Be a wise guy	109 Markey or Bagnold
33 Let up	81 Feign	125 — to Order" ('87 film)	30 "GoodFellas" gun	69 French impressionist	110 Fisherman's snare
36 Arthur or Pons	82 Tree surgeon's periodical?	126 Highly flying agcy.	31 Place to pontificate	70 Chingach-gook's son	111 Chalky cheese
38 — carrier	87 Midding mark	DOWN	32 Correct	71 Nailed a gnat	112 Skates
42 Snapshot	88 Whippet's wag	1 Adroit	33 Forward	72 Boltano or Blessed	113 Gumbo thickener
43 — Lama	90 Enormous	2 Evar's partner	34 Rover's review?	74 New York city	115 Absent
45 Strained	91 Terpsichore's sister		35 Presidential monogram	75 Require	117 City on the Danube
46 DEA officer	92 104 Down, e.g.		36 Sanctify		118 Ashen
48 Browning's bedtime?			37 Tombstone lawman		
49 Gardener's monthly?			39 Shake-spearean heavy		



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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- SCIENCE: What is the common name of ascorbic acid?
- MEASUREMENTS: How many bottles of champagne are contained in a jeroboom?
- GAMES: How many lettered tiles exist in a Scrabble game?
- GEOGRAPHY: Missouri is bordered by how many other U.S. states?
- HISTORY: What was the name of the volcano that erupted and buried the city of Pompeii in Italy?
- GOVERNMENT: What organization did the United Nations replace in 1945?
- TITLES: What is the female counterpart of an earl?
- MYTHOLOGY: How many muses of music, song and dance did the Greeks have?
- FOOD & DRINK: What ingredients are included in a cocktail called a stinger?
- MUSIC: The reggae band UB40 had a hit song about what kind of wine?

- Answers
1. Vitamin C
 2. Four
 3. 100
 4. Eight
 5. Mesavitus
 6. League of Nations
 7. Countess
 8. Nine
 9. Brandy and white creme de menthe
 10. "Red, Red Wine"

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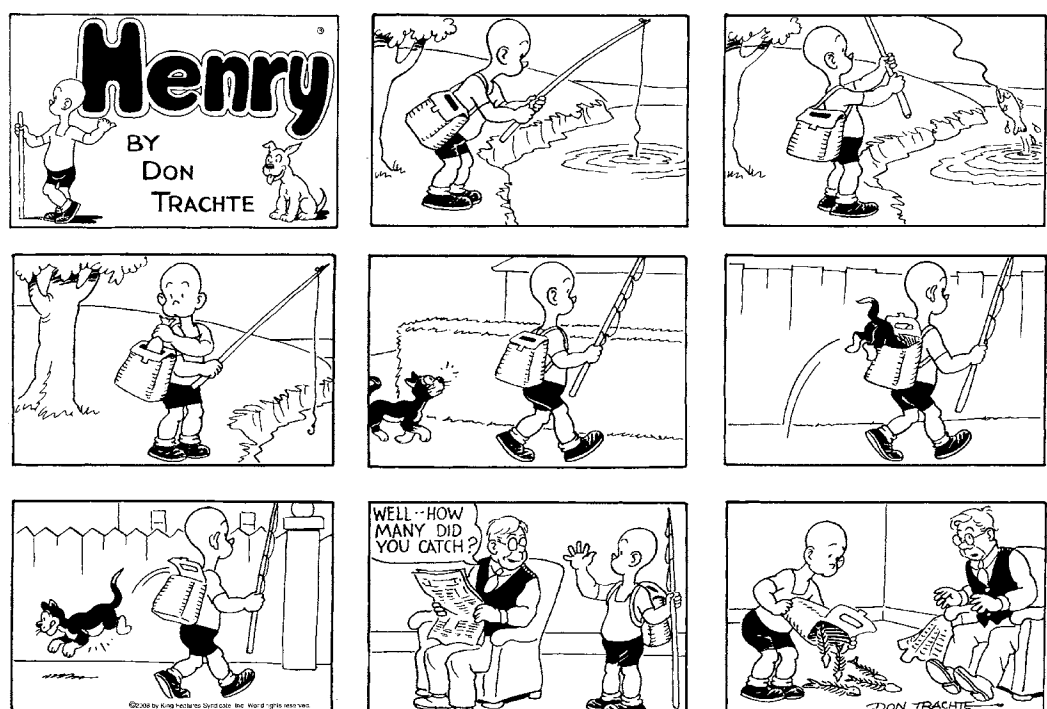
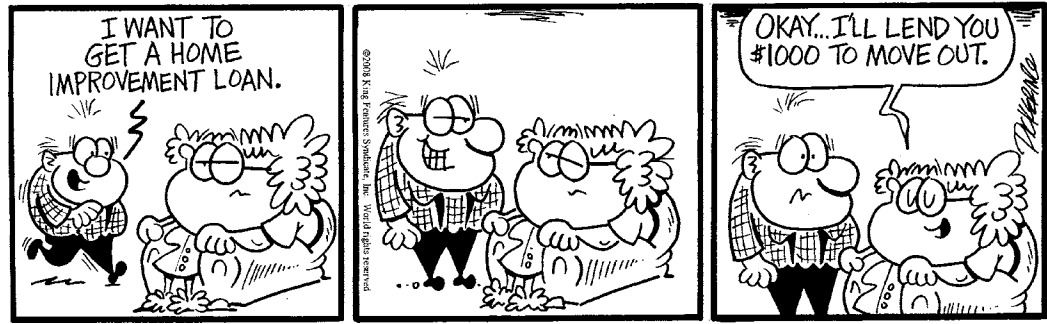
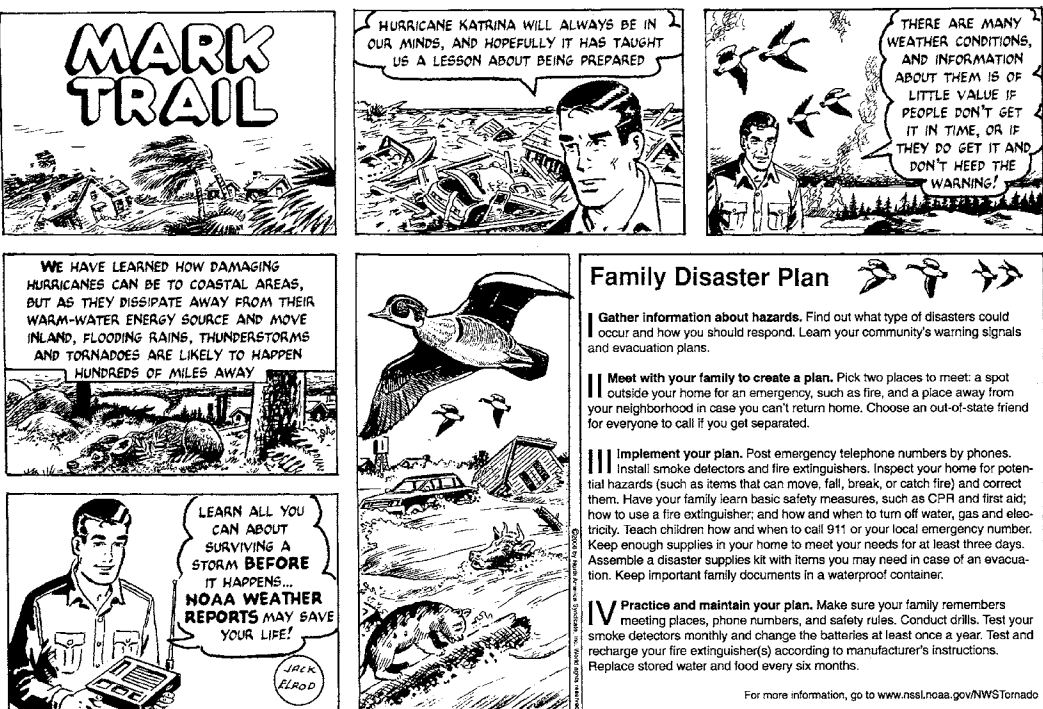
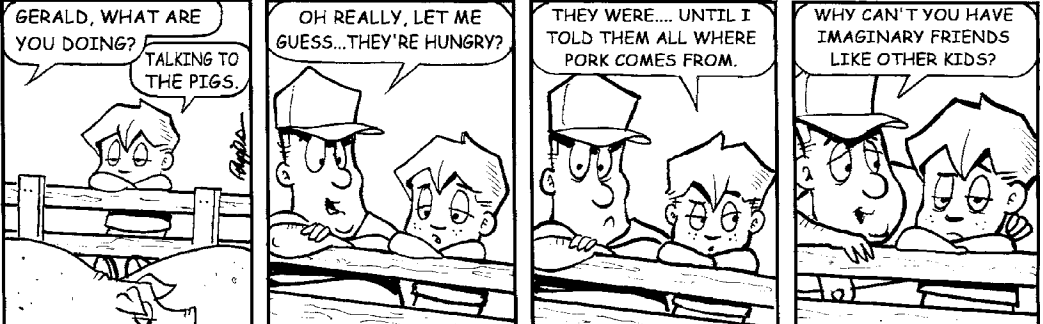


Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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- 5-Liner
- 3-Liner with picture
- 5-Liner with picture

COMBO

(PRINT AND ONLINE)

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- \$35
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- \$55

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Classified Ads

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- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Find today's solution in this section

WHATZIT Solution: Fed up to the back teeth

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Island Game Club. Contact Emil
De Belen @ 483-3645/233-5100

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\$35

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W/ PHOTO

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Saipan Tribune
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Brewers sweep Cards for 8th straight win



ST. LOUIS
(AP)—Ryan Braun had four hits for a second

straight game, including a two-run homer in the ninth, and Milwaukee beat St. Louis 4-3 on Thursday night, its eighth straight victory.

The Brewers rallied from a 3-1 deficit to sweep a series in St. Louis for the first time since September 1999.

Braun, who had four hits in Wednesday's 3-0 victory, has reached safely in his last nine plate appearances. His home run off Ryan Franklin (3-4) gave the Brewers a 4-3 lead and was his 26th of the season. It allowed the Brewers to set a franchise record with a home run in their 20th consecutive game.

Eric Gagne (3-2) picked up the win with one scoreless inning of relief. Solomon Torres recorded his 19th save by striking out the side in the ninth.

J.J. Hardy, who had three hits, started the ninth-inning rally with a one-out single. The Brewers' Nos. 2, 3 and 4 hitters—Hardy, Braun and Prince Fielder—had nine of their 10 hits.

Mets 3, Phillies 1

At New York, Carlos Delgado hit a tie-breaking, two-run double in the eighth inning to help New York take sole possession of first place in the NL East.

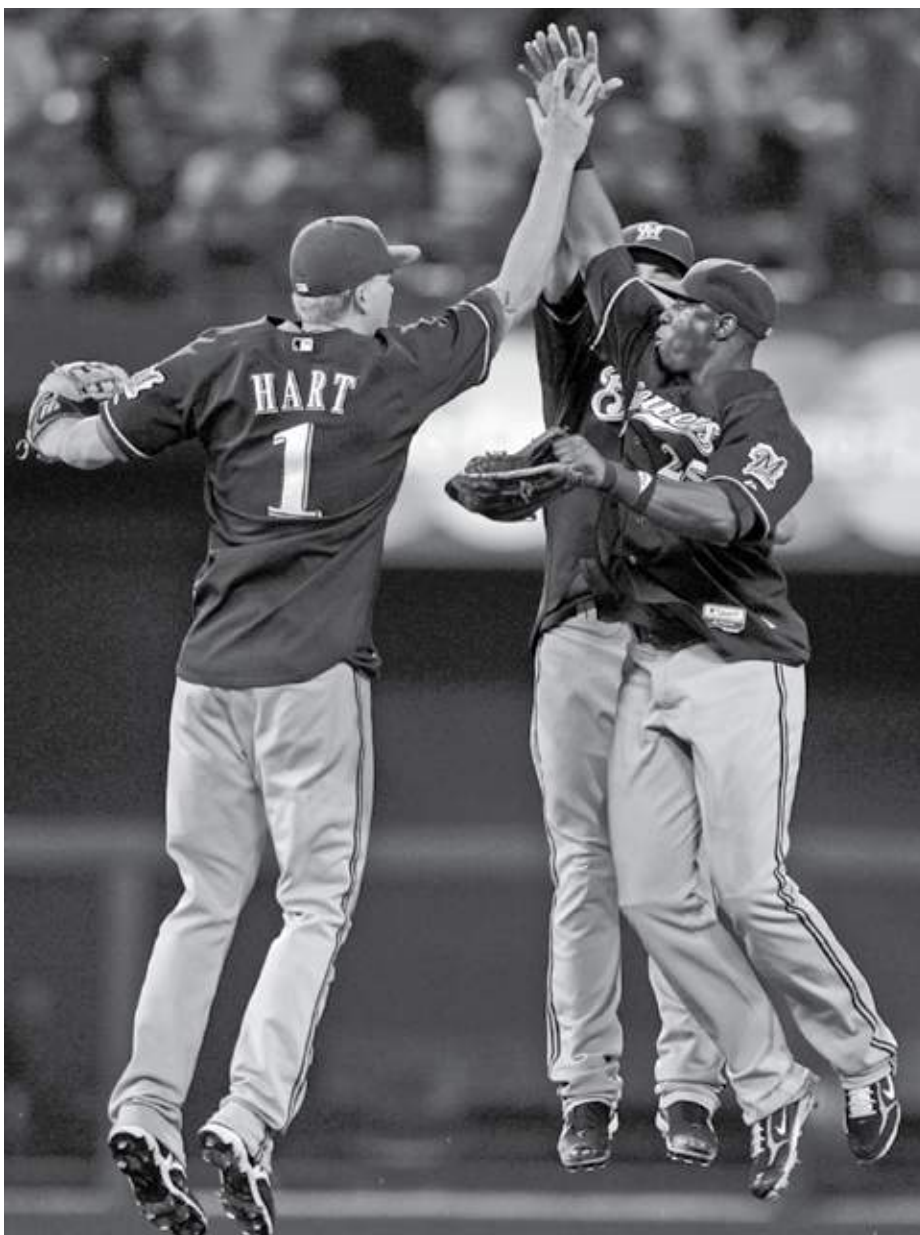
Oliver Perez struck out 12 in 7 2-3 innings, and Billy Wagner got three outs for his second save in as many days. The Mets took two of three in the series after blowing a three-run lead in the ninth inning of the opener. They are alone on top for the first time since April 19.

New York improved to 9-4 against the Phillies this year, after going 6-12 against them last season and losing the final eight meetings.

Eric Bruntlett had three hits for the Phillies.

Wagner, who earned his 26th save, missed the opener with a sore left shoulder.

Delgado doubled off J.C. Romero (4-3) with two outs in the eighth after David Wright was intentionally walked.



Milwaukee Brewers', from left to right, Corey Hart, Ryan Braun and Mike Cameron celebrate after defeating the St. Louis Cardinals 4-3 in a baseball game for a four-game sweep Thursday, July 24, 2008, in St. Louis.

Giants 1, Nationals 0

At San Francisco, Matt Cain pitched a four-hitter and Dave Roberts singled home a run in the eighth for San Francisco, which earned its first three-game home sweep of the season.

Cain (6-8) retired his first 11 batters and didn't issue a walk for the first time this year. He struck out four to boost his season total to 130.

Cain's other shutout came May 21,

2006, at Oakland. This was the Giants' seventh shutout this year and the 13th time Washington has been blanked, a major league high.

With his fourth career complete game, Cain became the first San Francisco pitcher to throw a shutout since Noah Lowry on Aug. 21, 2006, against Arizona.

Tim Redding (7-5) allowed seven hits in eight-plus innings, struck out five and didn't walk a batter for the sec-

prove to 38-12 at Wrigley Field.

Hanley Ramirez homered for the Marlins, who have lost three of four overall and lost to the Cubs for the first time since April 25, 2006.

Zambrano (11-4) held the Marlins to two runs and five hits, striking out six and hitting a batter.

Carlos Marmol, subbing for closer Kerry Wood who was placed on the 15-day disabled list before the game, got

and time in three starts.

Pirates 9, Padres 1

At Pittsburgh, Yoslan Herrera pitched six shutout innings for his first major league win, and Pittsburgh got back-to-back homers from Jason Bay and Xavier Nady.

Nate McLouth homered and had three RBIs for the Pirates, who have won four straight. They stopped a six-game skid against the Padres, who have lost nine of 10 overall.

San Diego owns the worst record in the major leagues at 38-65.

Herrera (1-1), making his third big league start since being called up from Double-A on July 12, allowed six singles and one walk while striking out four.

Bay and Nady opened the fourth with home runs against Clay Hensley (1-1) to give Pittsburgh a 4-0 lead.

Hensley, making his first start of the season, allowed six runs and seven hits in five innings.

Cubs 6, Marlins 3

At Chicago, Carlos Zambrano pitched seven solid innings and Chicago snapped a 10-game losing streak to Florida.

After a 2-4 road trip, the Cubs got home runs from Henry Blanco and Ronny Cedeno and a two-run double from Aramis Ramirez to im-

prove to 38-12 at Wrigley Field.

Trailing 2-1, the Cubs got to Florida starter Scott Olsen (6-5) in the fifth. Mark DeRosa drew a leadoff walk and Blanco singled. One out later, Zambrano ripped an RBI double down the left-field line to tie the game. After an intentional walk and a forceout, Olsen walked Derrek Lee to make it 3-2. Aramis Ramirez followed with a double to put the Cubs up 5-2. Blanco hit a solo homer in the sixth.

Olsen allowed six runs and seven hits.

Rays 4, Royals 2

At Kansas City, Gil Meche's arms and hands were coated with sweat, his rhythm completely off from spending so much time trying to dry off.

It took three innings, but Meche finally overcame the sweating—and started pitching.

Meche threw seven scoreless innings after a sweaty, shaky start and John Buck drove in two runs, helping the Kansas City Royals hold off Tampa Bay 4-2 on Thursday night to extend the AL East-leading Rays' road losing streak to seven games.

Meche (8-9) had a miserable first inning in the heat, needing 26 minutes and 31 pitches to get out of it. He did it without giving up a run, though, getting Carlos Pena to fly out with runners on first and third.

Blue Jays 7, Orioles 1

At Baltimore, Roy Halladay scattered seven hits over seven innings, leading Toronto over Baltimore after the Blue Jays won a game suspended one night earlier.

Halladay (12-7) allowed one run, struck out six, and walked one. The righthander took over the major-league lead in innings pitched (1591/3) and lowered his ERA to 2.82.

Halladay is 18-4 lifetime against the Orioles, who fell a season-worst five games under .500 (48-53).

Adam Lind and Marco Scutaro each had three hits and scored twice for the Blue Jays, who won three of four from Baltimore after losing their previous seven series on the road.

WNBA suspends 10 players and Mahorn for skirmish

By **LARRY LAGE**
AP SPORTS WRITER



The WNBA punished so many players for their roles in this week's skirmish that the league is staggering the suspensions by alphabetical order.

"None of us can recall an incident like this," WNBA president Donna Orender said Thursday during a conference call.

The league suspended Detroit assistant coach Rick Mahorn and 10 players following the dustup between the Shock and the visiting Los Angeles Sparks on Tuesday.

Shock forward Plenette Pierson was suspended for four games, the harshest penalty, for initiating and escalating the altercation.

"In our opinion, Plenette was the aggressor," said Renee Brown, the WNBA's chief of basketball operations and player relations.

Mahorn was suspended for two games, as were Shannon Bobbitt and

Muriel Page of the Sparks, for the incident at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

"As a team, we're incensed that Rick Mahorn was suspended," Detroit coach Bill Laimbeer said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press from Houston, where the Shock were scheduled to play the Comets. "He was trying to be a peacemaker and now he's being thrown under the bus."

Brown said Mahorn only started off as a peacemaker before he shoved Sparks star Lisa Leslie.

"Then he took it a step too far," she said. "When he pushed Lisa, it escalated the situation."

Players suspended for one game included Detroit's Kara Braxton, Tasha Humphrey, Elaine Powell and Sheri Sam, along with Los Angeles' Leslie, Candace Parker and DeLisha Milton-Jones.

"I feel sorry for Bobbitt and for Muriel getting two games for coming off the bench, but that is what the league felt necessary," Parker said.

Four of the suspended Shock players and Mahorn began serving their suspensions on Thursday night, where

Detroit played Houston. Sam was on the active roster, but the Shock were left with eight players for the game, including 50-year-old Nancy Lieberman, who signed a seven-day contract on Thursday.

Lieberman, the Shock's former coach and general manager, was going to play on Thursday only and Laimbeer said the Shock would sign another player to replace Ford on Friday.

Lieberman said her signing was more than just a publicity stunt aimed at directing attention away from Tuesday's fight.

"The other night was really sad and I watched it and was very disappointed," Lieberman said. "But today is a day to celebrate the history of the game, to celebrate this league and to inspire people."

Pierson was also fined \$1,500 and Mahorn was docked \$1,000. The rest of the players involved were fined \$500 each.

"I think the fines that were handed out were just," Los Angeles Sparks coach Michael Cooper said. "I don't think there is anyone in this league that

condones fighting. All players know what happens when you leave the floor and throw a punch. Unfortunately we're missing four of our five starters. That's something that we'll have to deal with but that's why they call it a team sport."

Laimbeer would not comment further on the suspensions of his players, but backed up Mahorn again before Thursday's game.

"It's unfortunate that players get suspended. These things happen," he said. "That's the way business works some days. I don't comment on suspensions because it's beyond my control. Except for Rick Mahorn. He was out there being a peacemaker, something happened and he was not involved and that's bad."

Pam Wheeler, director of operations for the WNBA players' union, said officials are in the process of interviewing players affected by the fines and suspensions while reviewing video of the end of the game.

"A determination of any appeals or grievances will be made shortly,"

Wheeler said in a statement.

The melee at The Palace in suburban Detroit—where the infamous brawl between the Pistons, Indiana Pacers and fans was in 2004—broke out with 4.6 seconds left in a game won by the Sparks.

Parker and Pierson got tangled and fell to the court. Deanna Nolan tackled Parker, and Mahorn appeared to push Leslie to the court. Milton-Jones responded by punching Mahorn in the back.

The fracas started moments after Parker and Detroit's Cheryl Ford had to be separated after Ford fouled Parker. After Ford tried to restrain Pierson, her right knee buckled and she left the floor in a wheelchair and will miss the rest of the season and playoffs due to a torn knee ligament.

Rare buzz was generated for the WNBA by the skirmish, but the source of the spotlight doesn't thrill the league.

"There's no doubt that there has been a tremendous amount of attention, but it's not the type of attention that we seek," Orender said.

Weir shoots 65 for share of lead at rainy Glen Abbey

OAKVILLE, Ontario (AP)—Mike Weir shot a bogey-free 6-under 65 on Thursday for a share of the lead with Anthony Kim and Eric Axley at the Canadian Open in a first round that was only half completed because of rain.

The round was suspended for darkness after it had been delayed earlier for 5 hours, 42 minutes.

"You want to take advantage of today because it's only going to get a little firmer and faster," said Weir, his words punctuated by a clap of thunder that drew a smile and forced him to reconsider his answer. "Maybe not with what's coming. Maybe not."

Richard Johnson, J.P. Hayes, Nicholas Thompson, Ryan Armour and Jason Allred shot 67s on the course saturated by 20 centimeters (8 inches) of rain in six days. John Senden and Charley Hoffman also were 4 under. Senden played nine holes, and Hoffman completed eight.

Because of the wet conditions, players were allowed to use preferred lies. "We're playing lift, clean and place and, if you hit fairways, you're going to have great opportunities to go at flags," Kim said. "The course isn't overly long. But if you can hit some 7-irons 15

feet and shake some of those in, you'll be in good shape. I hit every fairway and that gave me a lot of opportunities to go at some pins."

Two-time defending champion Jim Furyk, a few minutes away from teeing off when play was suspended because of lightning a little before 1 p.m., was 1 under at the turn.

A brief storm hit at about 1:30 p.m. and waves of showers followed, flooding bunkers and fairways on the course that many players thought would be unplayable after heavy

rain Wednesday. Play resumed at about 6:30 p.m., and was suspended because of darkness at 8:49 p.m., leaving the course once again to the weary maintenance crew.

"I heard in the locker room somebody said they were here until 3 in the morning," Weir said. "I'm sure they got a couple hours of sleep and were right back at it first thing. They've had their work cut out and

AP
Mike Weir, of Canada, hits from the fairway on the second hole during the first round of the Canadian Open golf championship at the Glen Abbey course in Oakville, Ontario, Thursday, July 24, 2008.



they've done a great job. It exceeded my expectations what I thought I was going to see out there."

Trying to become the first Canadian winner since Pat Fletcher in 1954, Weir is back at Glen Abbey for the first time since a playoff loss to Vijay Singh in 2004. The 2003 Masters champion is making his 18th appearance in the event. He missed the cut in his first nine starts—eight at Glen Abbey and one at Royal Montreal.

"I did need to get over the struggles I had around here," Weir said. "Finally shooting some good rounds in 2004 helped me get over the mental hurdle that I can shoot better than 70 out here."

Kim, the Wachovia Championship and AT&T National winner, is coming off a seventh-place tie in the British Open. The 23-year-old American was back in form Thursday after adjusting his swing to cope with the strong wind at Royal Birkdale.

"I really didn't feel comfortable until today," Kim said. "Yesterday, playing 15 holes, my game was a little bit off. My putter was off. Everything was just a little bit rusty. I definitely feel like I have my legs under me now."

Axley, the 2006 Texas Open winner, closed with a 15-foot eagle putt on par-5 18th.

Warriors re-sign Ellis to multiyear deal



OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—The Golden State Warriors made sure they would have Monta Ellis in their backcourt at least for the near future, re-signing the explosive guard to a multiyear contract Thursday.

Ellis, who was a restricted free agent, is expected to take over at point guard next season in Don Nelson's up-tempo offense after two-time All-Star Baron Davis opted out of his contract earlier this month to join his hometown team, the Los Angeles Clippers.

"We are absolutely thrilled to have Monta under contract for the next several years," said Chris Mullin, Golden State's executive vice president of basketball operations. "He has been one of the top young players in the NBA for the last two years and enjoyed a tremendous season last year. The growth that he has demonstrated at such a young age is incredible and we look forward to him playing a big part in our future success."

The 22-year-old Ellis, selected out of high school in the second round of the 2005 NBA draft, averaged career bests of 20.2 points, 5.0 rebounds, 3.4 assists and 1.53 steals in 37.9 minutes and 81 games last season. He was named the NBA's Most Improved Player after the 2006-07 campaign.

Mullin has been working furiously to upgrade his roster and knows he has no choice considering the Warriors play in the power-packed Western Conference.

Golden State, the first 48-victory NBA team not to make the

playoffs this past season, is coming off consecutive winning seasons for the first time in 16 years. Yet the Warriors' best season in 14 years wasn't enough to make it to the postseason after the team advanced to the second round in 2007.

Earlier Thursday, the Warriors announced that shooting guard Kelenna Azubuike would return after the club matched the Clippers' three-year, \$9 million offer sheet.

Azubuike averaged 8.1 points and 4.0 rebounds in 81 games last season with the Warriors, who signed the former Kentucky guard out of the NBA Developmental League in January 2007. He started 17 games for Golden State, and he should see more playing time next season after Davis' departure. Mickael Pietrus' signing with Orlando and Ellis' expected move to point guard.

"We are pleased to have Kelenna back in the fold," Mullin said. "He's a young and talented player who has continued to improve during his two seasons with our team. His versatility, athleticism and ability to shoot the 3-pointer certainly fit our style of play."

Azubuike, a restricted free agent, signed the offer sheet with the Clippers last Friday, giving Golden State seven days to match it. The Warriors, who earlier signed high-scoring free agent swingman Corey Maggette from the Clippers, also signed forward Ronny Turiaf away from the Lakers last week with a similar offer-sheet deal.

Golden State also signed forward Richard Hendrix, its second-round pick in last month's draft.

Two sentenced to prison in NBA betting scandal

NEW YORK (AP)—Two former high school classmates of disgraced NBA referee Tim Donaghy were both sentenced to more than a year in prison Thursday for their roles in a betting scandal that embarrassed the league.

A federal judge in Brooklyn gave James Battista, a professional gambler and admitted drug addict, 15 months in prison for making bets based on inside tips. Thomas Martino, the scheme's middleman, was sentenced to a year and one day for paying the referee thousands of dollars for the tips.

The men, both 42 and former classmates of Donaghy in Springfield, Pa., apologized before being sentenced.

"I'm not blaming either one of my co-defendants," Battista said. "I made bad choices."

Martino assured U.S. District Judge Carol Amon that once released from prison, "I will do everything in my power to restore my reputation."

The judge rejected arguments by

defense attorneys that their clients deserved probation. The gambling plot, she said, had serious repercussions because anytime a referee's "integrity is compromised in any way, the entire sport is compromised."

Donaghy, 41, pleaded guilty last year to felony charges he took the cash pay-offs from gamblers for picks on games, including ones he officiated, based on his behind-the-scenes knowledge. He faces up to 33 months in prison at sentencing Tuesday.

In a decision filed Wednesday, the judge said the three defendants must jointly pay the NBA \$217,266 in restitution. The league had sought nearly \$1.4 million covering hefty legal bills and a portion of Donaghy's salary dating to 2003—a claim the judge found excessive.

"It is undisputed that Donaghy dishonestly refereed 16 games during the 2006-2007 season, and a corresponding portion of his compensation for these games is an appropriate measure of the

NBA's loss," she wrote.

In June, Donaghy cast a cloud over the NBA finals by making fresh accusations that the league routinely encouraged refs to ring up bogus fouls to manipulate results but discouraged them from calling technical fouls on star players to keep them in games and protect ticket sales and television ratings.

The allegations—contained in court papers arguing that Donaghy deserved leniency for voluntarily disclosing the alleged corruption—included one instance claiming referees rigged a 2002 playoff series to force it to a revenue-boosting seven games.

Though the papers didn't name the teams involved, only the Los Angeles Lakers-Sacramento Kings series went to seven games during those playoffs. The Lakers went on to win the championship.

NBA commissioner David Stern has called the allegations baseless, saying Donaghy was only "singing" to get a lighter sentence.

Packers might postpone Favre's jersey retirement



GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—With Brett Favre's retirement up in the air, it goes without saying that the Green Bay Packers might have to put off retiring the three-time MVP's jersey.

The Packers had scheduled a ceremony to retire Favre's jersey in conjunction with the Sept. 8 season opener against Minnesota at Lambeau Field.

But with Favre now considering playing again in 2008 and locked in a stand-off with Packers management about his future in football, Packers president and CEO Mark Murphy acknowledged Thursday that the ceremony might have to be postponed.

"We have not made a decision yet on whether to cancel it," Murphy said, after the Packers' annual shareholders meeting

at Lambeau. "But we're coming up to a point where we're going to have to make a decision pretty quickly."

But Murphy said any delay would only be temporary.

"We're going to retire Brett's number at some point," Murphy said. "Regardless of whether it's this year, it'll be sometime in the future. We'll wait and see, but I think it's still enough up in the air that we want to wait and see how things play out."

The three-time MVP asked to be released from his contract earlier this month after his sudden desire to unretire was met with lukewarm enthusiasm from the Packers, who committed to moving forward after Favre said a tearful goodbye in March. The Packers have said they have no plans to release Favre—they hold his rights until

his contract expires after the 2010 season—but haven't commented publicly on a potential trade.

Murphy did, however, hint at the possibility of Favre playing for another team by conjuring the image of Joe Montana in a Kansas City Chiefs uniform on Thursday.

"We want to have positive feelings about Brett and the Packers, and we want him to continue to be a part of the Packer family," Murphy said. "I think the way this is handled will be important in terms of how that plays out in the future. But I'm also cognizant of some of the things that have happened in the past with Joe Montana ending his career with the Chiefs, now you look back on it, most people might not remember that he played with the Chiefs. They remember he was a 49er."

Kings dump Barako in 0-2 hole

MANILA, Philippines—Right now, more than anything—or anyone else—Jong Uichico’s main concern is to how to keep Barangay Ginebra’s murderous focus intact.

Playing with mean form and with just about everyone responding, the Gin Kings scored a clinical 111-104 rout of Red Bull Wednesday night for a 2-0 lead in their Smart PBA Fiesta Cup semifinal series at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, Quezon City.

And rather than bask in the glory of the win, Uichico offered guarded words and tried so hard to convince everyone that this series is not over yet—not by a long shot.

“Until the clock reads zero-zero and until we win four games, you cannot say that this

is over,” Uichico declared after moving within two more wins of his second Finals stint with this franchise.

“What I’m saying is that the possibility (of a Red Bull comeback) is always there and we don’t want that to happen,” Uichico added. “Ang kalaban namin (Our real opponent) is ourselves. That they will give in because they’re 0-2 down is not in Yeng’s character.”

“We have had our battles in the past and I just know that that (giving up) is not the character that he (Guiiao) instills in his team.”

After getting saddled with two fouls early in the first period, Jay-Jay Helterbrand returned with all guns blazing in the third quarter to shoot 19 of

his total and key the Ginebra breakaway.

He finished with 27 points and nine assists.

The Kings, who won the Philippine Cup last year after coming back from a 0-2 hole to get past San Miguel in the Finals, posted leads of as many as 13 points in that period and played with complete control the rest of the way.

Mark Caguioa scattered 24 and Chris Alexander totally outplayed Adam Parada with 20 points, 18 rebounds and two blocks to complete a three-pronged attack.

History also speaks kindly of Ginebra’s lead, with only five of the last 30 teams to ever fall into a 0-2 hole ever coming out to reverse the outcome.

fria single-handedly took on the almost 20-kilometer Christmas Island Relay run from Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio to the Last Command Post in Marpi, finishing second to Team We Are Legend.

The Mt. Fuji Marathon was held yesterday but results were still not available as of press time.

drove us around the bike and run courses and took us out for some great meals. We felt like VIPs for the whole time we were there. Much thanks must go out to Ed Diaz from MVA (Marianas Visitors Authority) and Hiroko-san from PDI (Pacific Development, Inc.). They really made the whole trip run smoothly and bent over backwards to help us out. I would also like to thank all the sponsors of this event—MVA, PDI, Pacific Islands Club, and Northwest Airlines. It really was one of the greatest experiences of my life,” he said.

Halliday completed the 28th staging of the Kaike Triathlon 201st overall with a time of 11:31:43. His splits were 56:37 in the swim, 5:31:13 in the bike, and 5:03:53 in the run.

2008 Little League Asia-Pacific Tournament after beating Rota, 11-1, last June 12 at the Joaquin Ogo Sr. Baseball Field in Sinapalo.

The Little League is a non-profit organization with the objective of promoting health and integrity among the young by organizing baseball events.

score with his three-over 75, while the highest was a whopping 114.

For more information about SGA’s July Ace of the Month Tournament and rest of the club’s competitions, call SGA president Martin Sablan at 483-6278, vice president John Takai at 484-3045, secretary Larry Guerrero at 287-1052, or tournament coordinator Mariano Fajardo at 483-2549.

mer Rezne Wong to sweep their own Pacific Islands Club Double this year as their relay team topped the 6th XTERRA Saipan Championship and 19th Tagaman Triathlon.

He also placed third in this year’s 10K Fun Run in the 3rd Annual Saipan Marathon and 26th Half Marathon last January.

In December last year, Villa-

finish line.”

Halliday said the 28th Kaike Triathlon was very well organized and the volunteers were wonderful.

“They really helped get me to the finish line. There were over 3,000 volunteers for 850 racers! All in all it was still a great race despite my problems (which were mostly my own fault) and I’m very proud to have represented the CNMI at this wonderful event.”

He also took time to thank the organizers of the 28th Kaike Triathlon and others who made his trip to the Land of the Rising Sun such a success.

“This trip was unbelievable. The way we were treated by the Kaike Triathlon committee staff was nothing short of first class. They personally

Keene Deleon Guerrero, Jeremy Lizama, and Poland Masaharu

Randall Aguon served as manager of the Saipan All-Stars and helping him in the dugout were head coach Elmer Sablan and assistant coach Manny Sablan.

Saipan’s best 9-12-year-old ballplayers advanced to the

11, respectively.

SGA also lauded Jung Eun Taeck for contributing the prizes for the event. Meanwhile, winners for the closest to the pins were Jung, Hocog, Manny Alvarez, and March Ace Ned Norita.

There were 11 players that made one or more birdies with Norita and Steve Balakrishna having the most with three each. Norita topped the lowest gross

just six at the end of the half.

Cyrus Baguio kept the Barako in the game by shooting 16 of his career-high 34 points in the third period. But Ginebra maintained control just the same with 39 points in the period.

Parada, though close to 100 percent Wednesday night, labored hard against Alexander and shot just 16 points on top of 10 rebounds in the highly-physical contest.

The win was the 10th straight for the Kings dating back to the eliminations, where they started a mighty rally to earn the No. 3 seeding and the

quarterfinals outright.

Magnolia was shooting for a similar 2-0 lead against Air21 and the returning Steven Thomas at presstime.

Barangay Ginbera 111 – Helterbrand 27, Caguioa 24, Alexander 20, Artadi 9, Reavis 8, Mamaril 7, Valenzuela 6, Salvacion 5, Menk 3, Pacana 2, Crisano 0.

Red Bull 104 – Baguio 34, Juntilla 16, Parada 16, Najorda 16, Cruz 7, Hrabak 7, Duncil 5, Adriano 3, Alvarez 0, Pennisi 0.

Quarters: 25-24, 55-49, 94-83, 111-104. **(PDI)**

RON

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kilometers of the race is also a trail run.

Villafria is one of the islands’ most accomplished runners. Most recently, he helped an all-Filipino team composed of biker Rene Calage and swim-

HALLIDAY

From Page 28

The most challenging part of Halliday’s Kaike Triathlon experience, however, was the 42.195-km run portion of the race that saw him suffer from severe stomach cramps due to a lack of salt in his body.

After struggling in the first part of the run because of his condition, Halliday got a break when a passing triathlete gave him some salt tablets and that gave him the energy to finish the race with flying colors.

“That began to work after 30-40 minutes and after a three-hour 10-minute first half I ran the second half in an hour and 53 minutes passing over 100 people on the way back to the

CNMI

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Rabauliman, Chris Mizer, A.J. Lizama, Ricky Joe Riungel, A.J. Castro, Jared Sablan, Jun Rabauliman, Raymond Saralu, A.J. Lizama, Frankie Camacho, Jonah Flores, Jerome Reyes,

NOBERT

From Page 28

and retired judge Ed Manibusan, respectively, for creating a new set of tournament rules.

On other events, former Department of Community and Cultural Affairs secretary John L. Babauta and Hodges grabbed prizes for the closest to the green competition, in holes No. 7 and

And Uichico’s guarded words probably stemmed from the fact that he knows how to get such a feat done, having recorded the latest of those comebacks by steering the Kings past his former squad in last year’s Philippine Cup.

Unlike in its 108-82 Game 1 loss, Red Bull was easily the more aggressive team, leading several times in the first two periods before lagging behind by



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	59	42	.584	—
Boston	60	43	.583	—
New York	56	45	.554	3
Toronto	51	51	.500	8 1/2
Baltimore	48	53	.475	11

Central Division

Chicago	57	43	.570	—
Minnesota	55	46	.545	2 1/2
Detroit	52	49	.515	5 1/2
Kansas City	46	57	.447	12 1/2
Cleveland	44	56	.440	13

West Division

Los Angeles	62	39	.614	—
Oakland	52	49	.515	10
Texas	52	50	.510	10 1/2
Seattle	38	63	.376	24

NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division

New York	55	47	.539	—
Philadelphia	54	48	.529	1
Florida	53	49	.520	2
Atlanta	48	53	.475	6 1/2
Washington	38	64	.373	17

Central Division

Chicago	60	42	.588	—
Milwaukee	59	43	.578	1
St. Louis	57	47	.548	4
Cincinnati	50	53	.485	10 1/2
Pittsburgh	48	54	.471	12
Houston	46	55	.455	13 1/2

West Division

Arizona	50	51	.495	—
Los Angeles	49	52	.485	1
Colorado	45	58	.437	6
San Francisco	43	58	.426	7
San Diego	38	65	.369	13

Yesterday's Games

N.Y. Mets 3, Philadelphia 1
San Francisco 1, Washington 0
Pittsburgh 9, San Diego 1
Chicago Cubs 6, Florida 3
Milwaukee 4, St. Louis 3
Toronto 5, Baltimore 1, comp. of susp. game
Toronto 7, Baltimore 1
Kansas City 4, Tampa Bay 2

CANADIAN OPEN SCORES

OAKVILLE, Ontario (AP)—Scores from the incomplete first round of the \$5 million (euro3.19 million) Canadian Open on the 7,222-yard, par-71 (35-36) Glen Abbey Golf Club course (play suspended due to darkness with 78 players still on the course. Round will be completed Friday morning):

FIRST ROUND

Mike Weir	31-34	65
Eric Axley	34-31	65
Anthony Kim	31-34	65
Richard Johnson	32-35	67
J.P. Hayes	33-34	67
Nicholas Thompson	31-36	67
Ryan Armour	34-33	67
Jason Allred	33-34	67
Bob Estes	34-34	68
Dudley Hart	33-35	68
Steve Allan	33-35	68
Bill Haas	34-34	68

Steve Flesch	32-36	68	Ken Duke
Jeff Maggert	33-35	68	Ben Curtis
Carl Pettersson	32-36	68	Jim Furyk
Ted Purdy	33-35	68	Cameron Beckman
Kevin Streelman	32-36	68	Ian Leggatt
Michael Letzig	33-35	68	Scott McCarron
Kevin Na	34-35	69	Larry Mize
Cliff Kresge	33-36	69	Steve Marino
Charlie Wi	32-37	69	Michael Knight
Bubba Watson	35-34	69	Jon Mills
Brian Davis	33-36	69	David Hearn
Todd Hamilton	32-37	69	Travis Perkins
Fred Couples	34-35	69	Dustin Risdon
Olin Browne	35-34	69	Daniel Im
Parker McLachlin	32-37	69	Omar Uresti
Briny Baird	35-34	69	Frank Lickliter II
Andrew Buckle	34-35	69	Mark Calcavecchia
Kenneth Ferrie	34-35	69	Kevin Sutherland
Jimmy Walker	31-38	69	Tag Ridings
Michael Allen	34-36	70	Tim Petrovic
Will MacKenzie	34-36	70	Charles Warren
Len Mattiace	33-37	70	Shane Bertsch
Adam Bland	34-36	70	Matt Jones
Pat Perez	34-37	71	Todd Demsey
Brad Elder	34-37	71	Brett Rumford
Richard S. Johnson	35-36	71	Y.E. Yang
Joe Durant	33-38	71	Martin Laird
Corey Pavin	35-36	71	Jim Rutledge
Mark Wilson	34-37	71	Doug LaBelle II
Chris Riley	37-34	71	Scott Sterling
Camilo Villegas	35-36	71	Chez Reavie
Jason Gore	35-36	71	Jin Park
Glen Day	36-35	71	Kyle Thompson
Nathan Green	38-33	71	Brad Fritsch
David Morland IV	35-36	71	Wes Jeffernan
Tommy Gainey	35-36	71	Lee Janzen
Jim McGovern	35-37	72	Ryan Palmer
Dean Wilson	34-38	72	Jay Williamson
Michael Bradley	34-38	72	Tim Wilkinson
Steve Elkington	35-37	72	Stephen Ames
Brenden Pappas	35-37	72	Nick Watney
David Lutterus	34-38	72	Jerry Kelly
Andrew Parr	34-38	72	Tom Pernice, Jr.
Jason Dufner	34-38	72	Kent Jones
George Bradford	36-36	72	Jeff Quinney
Brian Gay	36-37	73	Matt Kuchar
Retief Goosen	33-40	73	Bob Tway
Billy Andrade	37-36	73	Todd Halpen
John Mallinger	36-37	73	WC Liang
Nick Flanagan	36-37	73	Nick Taylor
Webb Simpson	33-40	73	Paul Claxton
John Ellis	34-39	73	Cody Freeman
Chang Wan Woo	38-35	73	Craig Barlow
Brad Adamonis	39-35	74	Troy Matteson
Brandt Jobe	37-37	74	Harrison Frazar
Marc Turnesa	34-40	74	Kevin Stadler
Dustin Johnson	36-38	74	Bob Heintz
Craig Kanada	35-39	74	Alejandro Canizares
Bryan DeCorso	36-38	74	Adam Short
Bob Sowards	35-39	74	Dan Forsman
Chris DiMarco	37-38	75	Marco Dawson
Chad Collins	37-38	75	J.J. Henry
Gavin Coles	37-38	75	Robert Garrigus
Ron Whittaker	38-38	76	Justin Bolli
Jacob Scriven	36-43	79	Bo Van Pelt
Chris Stroud	40-41	81	Eric Landreville

Did Not Finish

John Senden
Charley Hoffman
Carlos Franco
Sean O'Hair
Billy Mayfair
Jason Day
Patrick Sheehan
Mathias Gronberg
John Huston
Jeff Overton
Alex Cejka
Jeff Gove

Leaderboard

	SCORE	THRU
1. Eric Axley	-6	F
1. Anthony Kim	-6	F
1. Mike Weir	-6	F
4. Richard Johnson	-4	F
4. Nicholas Thompson	-4	F
4. Jason Allred	-4	F
4. Ryan Armour	-4	F
4. John Senden	-4	9
4. Charley Hoffman	-4	8
4. J.P. Hayes	-4	F

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Canadian Weir shoots 65 for share of lead at rainy Glen Abbey

Mike Weir shot a bogey-free 6-under 65 on Thursday for a share of the lead with Anthony Kim and Eric Axley at the Canadian Open in a first round that was only half completed because of rain. **26**

Saipan Tribune Sports

Brewers sweep Cards for 8th straight win

Ryan Braun had four hits for a second straight game, including a two-run homer in the ninth, and Milwaukee beat St. Louis 4-3 on Thursday night, its eighth straight victory. **25**



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI salvages third place, Guam going to World Series

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The CNMI Major League All-Stars salvaged third place when they beat South Korea, 12-7, in the battle of pool runners-up last Thursday in the 2008 Little League Asia-Pacific Tour-

namment at the Hong Kong Disneyland Resort.

No details were available, but according to longtime devotees of the sport the third place finish is the first time the CNMI finished outside the Top 2 since 2000.

While the CNMI bombed out



in duplicating its runner-up finish to deposed champion Chinese-Taipei in 2007, the Little League All-Stars from the south, Guam, booked themselves a ticket to Williamsport, Pennsylvania after

beating host Hong Kong, 5-2, in the championship game.

According to *Pacific Daily News*, Guam starting pitcher Parish Reyes starred in the win, pitching three good innings of two-run ball while also doing some heavy lifting on the plate.

Reliever Nick Cruz was even better

as he held the former Crown Colony scoreless the rest of the game to earn the U.S. territory a trip to the 2008 Little League World Series.

Making up the CNMI Major League All-Stars for the 2008 Little League Asia-Pacific Tournament are Jeremy **See CNMI on Page 27**

Ron running out of shoes in Japan



CNMI runner Ronald Villafria poses on top of Mt. Fuji during one of his practice runs earlier this week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By MARK RABAGO
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Good thing Ronald Villafria raised a little bit of dough from his Run For Ron event a few months back because at the rate he is wearing out running shoes practicing for the Mt. Fuji Marathon, he needs every single cent from it.

In a recent email to the *Saipan Tribune*, the employee of Coco Restaurant said he has already went through four pairs of running shoes during his practice ascents and descents to the 12,388-foot Mt. Fuji.

The longtime nonresident worker said in one of his practice runs, he was able to scale and go down from the usually snow-capped summit in about five hours, while the normal time for newcomers to negotiate the grueling 36-kilometer trek up and down Mt. Fuji was eight to nine hours.

While the distance of the marathon does not seem to daunt the 33-year-old Villafria, the cold has become one his biggest worries coming into the race.

He said he didn't expect Japan, more specifically the area around Mt. Fuji, to be that cold. In fact, he made a boo-boo of sorts when he ran his first practice round up to the top sans winter clothing.

Good thing for the intrepid runner, a Japanese lady, who was also making the ascent, was kind enough to lend him a pair of pants as Villafria was visibly shaking from the cold and his ears were probably in the first stages of frostbite.

The kind gesture made Villafria's descent a little more comfortable—if not warmer—and to reciprocate the act of kindness, the Filipino runner assisted the Good Samaritan on the rocky road down.

Villafria was supposed to be joined by another CNMI veteran long distance runner in the Mt. Fuji Marathon, or Fuji Tozan Race, but lawyer Steve Pixley backed off at the last minute.

The Mt. Fuji Marathon is composed of two legs—a 15-km race to the fifth station of the mountain and a 21-km race all the way to the top. The final six

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Nobert wins SGA July Ace

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Former Saipan Golfers Association president Nobert Sablan reigned supreme in the club's July Ace of the Month

after shooting a net 67 last Sunday, July 20, at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

SGA treasurer Joe I. Sablan actually fired the score to beat last weekend with his net 66, but since he already owned the February Ace, he had to yield the plum to the golfer with the next lowest post-handicap score.

Club rules stipulate that a member is only allowed to win one monthly ace throughout the course of the year.

Even so, Nobert Sablan was not out of the woods yet as his net score tied him with his cousin Martin Sablan. But the former edged out the latter in a scorecard tiebreak.

A total of 21 SGA golfers roamed the scenic Kingfisher Golf Links last Sunday, which also saw the club welcome new members Ron Hodges, brothers Frank and Joe Rosario, Carl Hocog, and Bill Ada.

SGA also recognized tournament and handicap coordinators Mariano Fajardo

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Halliday happy to survive Kaike



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While Maimi Shimizu is already looking forward to next year's race, Tinian transplant Ken Halliday appears to be content just to have survived last weekend's 28th Kaike Triathlon.

"It was the most difficult undertaking I've ever been part of. The heat was amazing. About four or five degrees (Celsius) hotter than Saipan. The swim was pretty violent with over 800 people starting at once. Mai (Fellow CNMI entrant Maimi Shimizu) was 54th out of the water and I was 78th. I was hit and kicked many times in the first two kilometers," he said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Halliday, meanwhile, characterized the bike course as brutal as only 20-30 kilometers of the 145 kilometers was flat.

"Mai and I rode together for the first 60 kilometers but then I had a mechanical problem with one of my pedals almost falling off. I lost about 10 minutes waiting for the bike mechanic to fix it but still had a decent ride of 5:31," he said.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ken Halliday struggled in the first half of the 42.195-km run portion of the 28th Kaike Triathlon after developing severe stomach cramps due to a lack of salt in his body.